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Selim Mehmed II, the Conqueror
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George Crews Mc Ghee
United States Ambassador
to Turkey

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CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

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Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

No. 1.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 3.)

My Lord, *Gastein, June* 28, 1876.

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship that I had acquainted Count Andrassy verbally with the opinions which you expressed to Count Schouvaloff, as reported in your despatch to Lord A. Loftus of the 14th instant,* as to the improbability of any arrangement being effected between the Turkish Government and the insurgents in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, until successful military operations on the part of the Turkish forces shall have diminished the pretensions of the latter, or a consciousness of its inability to subdue them shall have rendered the Porte less unwilling than at present to concede the administrative autonomy to which they aspire.

I reported, at the same time, that Count Andrassy had stated to me in reply that, as Count Schouvaloff had communicated to Count Beust the substance of your language on the subject, he had already made some observations upon it, which, Count Beust had informed him, had been favourably received by your Lordship.

His Excellency said he could not concur in your Lordship's appreciation of the existing state of things, as in his opinion the insurgents are not fighting for autonomy, whatever may be the aspirations of their chiefs; and, as many refugees have already returned to their homes, he felt assured that the Christian population of the provinces generally would submit to the Turkish authorities on the Porte adopting measures which would satisfy them that the privileges and the administrative reforms promised would be immediately secured to them.

He then read a telegram from Ems, in which Count Carolyi informed him that Prince Gortchakow had expressed satisfaction with your Lordship's proposals, as they had been reported to him by Count Schouvaloff, and that his Highness was about to forward to M. de Novikoff a copy of Count Schouvaloff's despatch, with instructions to communicate it to his Excellency. I said that your Lordship did not appear to me to have made proposals, but merely to have explained to Count Schouvaloff, in answer to his inquiries, the views which Her Majesty's Government entertain of the present state of things in the insurgent Provinces, and as to the means by which their pacification may be eventually effected. I said that as Count Schouvaloff's report of your Lordship's opinions was about to be communicated to him, I thought it would be desirable that he should also see your own report of them, and that, as I was obliged to leave Vienna for a few days, I would request Mr. Ffrench to read to him an extract from a despatch in which you had acquainted Lord Augustus Loftus with the language which you had held to the Russian Ambassador. I considered this necessary, as I thought it not impossible that your Lordship might be represented to consider the autonomy of the Provinces as the best solution of the question, and because, from an observation of Count Andrassy, it appeared to me that he feared you had so expressed yourself; and though Prince Gortchakow is most desirous to bring about such an arrangement, it is, I believe, one to which Count Andrassy entertains serious objections, as likely to prove injurious to the interests of Austria-Hungary.

The extract of your Lordship's despatch which I requested Mr. Ffrench to read

* "Turkey No. 3, 1876," page 260.

to his Excellency contained its concluding paragraphs, beginning with that in which you state that, "in answer to a further inquiry of Count Schouvaloff, I said that it was no part of the system or policy of England to take a position of isolation on Eastern affairs."

Your Lordship will have since learnt from a telegraphic report of Mr. Ffrench that, on his reading this extract to Count Andrassy, his Excellency expressed himself pleased with the tone of your Lordship's observations, but that he objected to the possible autonomy or independence of the insurgent Provinces as unsuited to a mixed population of Turks and Christians, who, being without the conditions of homogeneity possessed by Servia and Roumania, would be in a constant state of civil war, as, whether they were annexed to Servia or governed by a Prince as a separate State, the means of exercising a sufficient control over them would be wanting. He repeated also to Mr. Ffrench what he had already stated to me, that Servia is now ready for war, and is only awaiting an opportunity to make common cause with the insurgents; and that though the Turkish troops would possibly be worsted at first, as neither party would admit defeat the war might be prolonged for years; and he therefore considered that, while the united moral support of the Great Powers should be given to the Porte, it should be advised to take the initiative in carrying out the proposed reforms, with a view to prevent hostilities, and that influence should be employed to separate the Servians and Montenegrins from the insurgents, or, as his Excellency has more fully explained to me, that the Porte should endeavour to separate the interests of Servia and Montenegro, and to induce the latter by the promise of eventual territorial concessions to promote the pacification of the provinces.

When his Excellency spoke to me in this sense, I expressed to him my belief that Sir Henry Elliot would not fail to advise the Porte to do everything in its power by administrative reforms to facilitate the restoration of peace, and Mr. Ffrench has since acquainted his Excellency, in conformity with your Lordship's telegraphic instruction of the 24th instant, with the earnest advice given by Sir Henry Elliot to the Porte to endeavour to prevent Montenegro acting in concert with Servia, and with his having suggested the expediency, as Nichsich had been revictualled without opposition, of the Porte's sending a message to Prince Nicholas acknowledging the influence which he is exerting over his subjects, and promising that, when tranquillity is restored, it will consider what it may be possible to do in the matter which he has at heart.

A telegram from Mr. Ffrench will have informed your Lordship that Count Andrassy said that he had sent similar instructions to Count Zichy three weeks ago, and that he fears, should the Porte now act on the advice it has received, it will be too late to have any effect upon events.

Mr. Ffrench will also have reported to your Lordship that, in answer to his inquiries as to the course which the Austrian-Hungarian Government would pursue in the event of Servia becoming a party to the war, his Excellency said that they would take such measures to protect ("sauvegarder") the interests of the Monarchy as circumstances might require.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 2.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 3.)

(Extract.) *Berlin, June* 30, 1876.

THE language which Count Carolyi appears to be instructed to hold to the German Government is identical with that held by Count Andrassy to Sir A. Buchanan; but his Excellency seems to insist particularly on the impossibility of Austria countenancing or sanctioning the autonomy or independence of the Christian provinces now in revolt, which he fears would constitute a first step towards the eventual formation of a Slav State.

No. 3.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 4, 1876.

COUNT BEUST called upon me to-day and read to me a despatch which had been addressed by Count Andrassy to the Austrian Ambassador at Berlin.

In this despatch Count Andrassy observed that he might have left the Russian proposal of granting autonomy to the insurgent Turkish provinces to be dealt with by the Porte, which would certainly have refused it, or by England, who might probably have declined to accede to it; but that he preferred to express with all frankness the views of the Austro-Hungarian Government. He said that he agreed with the remark which I had made to Count Schouvaloff (in the conversation recorded in my despatch to Lord A. Loftus of the 14th ultimo*) that the raising of the question as to the interference of the Powers respecting the future position of the provinces was premature; he agreed also in my observation, recorded in the same despatch, that, in the event of a Turkish victory, the insurgents might be induced to accept less than they had originally asked; but he was not prepared to admit that, in the contrary event of a Turkish defeat, any other solution for the question should be sought than that on which the Powers had already agreed. It was his belief that either party in the struggle might have strength to get the upper hand, but that neither would be strong enough to reap all the fruits of a victory; in that case a renewed action of the Powers in union would become necessary; and, when the time arrived, he should count on the adhesion of all Europe, but he should especially reckon upon the concert of the three Empires.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 4.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, July* 4, 1876.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd ultimo,† I have mentioned to Count Andrassy that your Lordship has acquainted me with the language which Count Beust had lately held to you respecting the prospect of Servia and Montenegro declaring war against the Porte; and as Count Beust had stated, in speaking upon the subject, that he expected to learn from his Excellency what course appeared to him to be practicable under the circumstances, when he had time to consider a proposition which had been communicated to him by the Russian Ambassador, I asked to what proposition Count Beust had alluded.

Count Andrassy answered that he had been at first led to believe from Count Beust's correspondence that your Lordship agreed with the Russian Government in considering that the administrative autonomy of the insurgent provinces would be the most practical and best manner of terminating the differences between them and the Porte, though it now appeared to him that Count Beust was under some misapprehension on the subject. He had decided that the best course was to state frankly and honestly to the Russian Chancellor that the interests of Austria-Hungary would prevent him from assenting to such a solution of the question. He said he had not yet heard how Prince Gortchakow had received this communication.

As he asked me what I believed to be your Lordship's views on the subject, I said that as far as I knew, your Lordship had only spoken of autonomy as a possible eventuality, which might be the consequence of the Turks being unable to suppress the insurrection.

His Excellency then went on to say that he was entirely of your Lordship's opinion, that diplomatic action would for the present be inopportune, and that the Powers should not attempt to come to any agreement as to the arrangements which might be the most expedient in the future until it is seen how far the Porte may be able to repel the aggression of Servia and Montenegro, and to suppress the insurrection by arms. Its military resources might possibly not be sufficient for that purpose, and from what he learnt from Count Zichy he feared that the Government had not sufficient funds at its disposal to purchase provisions and other necessaries for the army, or to pay the troops. I observed that they

* "Turkey No. 3, 1876," page 260. † Ibid., page 319.

could not, however, be worse off in that respect than their opponents; but he said the cases were different, as the Servians could live by plunder, while the Turkish troops could not rob in their own country.

No. 5.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July 6, 1876.*

I CALLED to-day on Count Andrassy, who leaves to-morrow with the Emperor to meet the Emperor Alexander and Prince Gortchakow at Reichstadt in Bohemia, on His Imperial Majesty's way from Jugenheim to St. Petersburgh; and I said to his Excellency, as I thought it would interest him before meeting Prince Gortchakow to be made acquainted with the opinion which your Lordship had recently expressed respecting the events passing in the Ottoman Empire in a note addressed to Count Schouvaloff, I had obtained your authority to read it to him.

While I did so Count Andrassy frequently expressed his concurrence in the way in which your Lordship has described the influence under which the insurrection in Bosnia and the Herzegovina originated, and has been kept up until the present time; and the only observation in the despatch with which he did not entirely agree was that in which your Lordship treats as unfounded the apprehension which Prince Gortchakow had expressed lest successes on the part of the Turkish troops might be followed by a general massacre of the Christians, or, in his Highness' words, in their extermination.

Count Andrassy said that until now he was ready to admit there had been no ground for such an apprehension; but if the whole Mussulman population is to be armed, and wild undisciplined levies are to be brought from the distant provinces to fight against the enemies of Islam, he could not feel confident that the war might not assume the character which Prince Gortchakow anticipated.

When I had finished reading the despatch his Excellency said he was much obliged to your Lordship for having allowed me to do so, as he had been under some doubt as to the views of Her Majesty's Government; Prince Gortchakow, in a despatch dated the 1st instant, having represented your Lordship to be entirely agreed (" d'être entièrement d'accord ") with his Highness on the questions under consideration, and to have intimated that his Excellency's objections were the only obstacle in the way of a general understanding being adopted by the Great Powers as to the course to be pursued with respect to the future position of the Christian populations in the European provinces of the Turkish Empire.

His Excellency said that Prince Gortchakow appeared to have considered that the hope expressed in the late paragraph of your Lordship's note justified such a statement, but it could hardly be said yet that there was no difference in the views of his Highness and of your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 6.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby —(Received August 8.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, July 25, 1876.*

I THINK it may be useful at the present moment to correct some ideas which, as far as I can judge from the public press in England, seem to be perfectly taken for granted, and which prejudice a sound judgment of the real state of affairs in these countries. It is assumed that there is, and has been for many years, great sympathy and increasing intimacy between the Christian population of Bosnia and the Servians, by inter-marriages and other relations.

The fact is that no contiguous countries could possibly be more completely estranged, and have fewer relations with, or more ignorance of, each other than Bosnia and Servia. There is no commerce, and no inter-marrying, and scarcely any intercourse at all between the two countries. Little or no sympathy ever existed between them; and the orthodox Christians of Bosnia, though in general disliking the Turks, have little desire to be annexed to Servia, and would prefer infinitely their present state, if a happier condition and better

government could be assured them. In no case have the Christian inhabitants of Bosnia risen in arms against the Turks unless they have been absolutely forced to do so, and even now, when Servia has declared war with Turkey, there is not the slightest response to her invitations to revolt and accept her Government, except from those who have been made to take up arms, and lost all their property, and who dread to return to their allegiance, even if they were able, from fear of vengeance of the Turks. These naturally make any declaration suggested to them by Servia.

Another mistake is that in speaking of the Christian population of Bosnia no account is taken of the Roman Catholics, who are a population apart, who hate the Serbs, and side entirely with the Turks, and form with them nearly two-thirds of the population absolutely hostile to any annexation to Servia.

I also still see articles published, in which it is assumed that nothing would be more just and simple than to accord to Bosnia and the Herzegovina their autonomy, with the payment of tribute to the Porte on the same footing as Servia. This idea is founded on a complete ignorance of the social condition of the people. The Orthodox population are composed principally of farm labourers, the Catholics the same, and the Turks are mostly the proprietors of the soil. All are indiscriminately mixed up throughout the country; none are fit for self-government. Who then is to rule under these conditions?

It has been suggested to put them under a foreign Prince; but from whence could his Government derive its strength? His army must necessarily be a foreign one, which would simply be a foreign occupation.

Another idea is that the Christian population is immensely in advance of the Mussulmans in education, wealth, and civilization. This is entirely false. If there be any difference I should say it is in favour of the Mussulmans. The fact is that no section of the population can boast of either education, wealth, or civilization.

It is also repeatedly declared that it is intolerable that European Christians should be allowed to remain under the tyranny of Asiatic Turks, it being quite overlooked that the Turks who, from the time of the conquest of Bosnia up to 1852, have absolutely, and since then virtually, governed the country, and who are responsible for the past and existing state of affairs, are not strangers, but natives of the country, Sclaves themselves, who became perverts to Islamism, and that there is no doubt that all the improvement in the state of affairs, and the better security of life and property which has taken place within the last thirty years is certainly due to the increased authority and influence of the Porte, acquired by the suppression of the last revolt of the Bosniac Beys by Omer Pasha.

These are all indisputable facts which cannot be contradicted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 7.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 8.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, July* 26, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 17th instant the Mussulmans have addressed a telegram to the Government, complaining of the incursions of the Montenegrins into the Herzegovina, and of the want of energy displayed by the Imperial troops there, and inquiring whether it was intended to allow the Herzegovina to be annexed to Montenegro, as in that case they might be spared the danger and fatigue of fighting to preserve it. The Grand Vizier replied by a telegram dated the 21st, of which I inclose a translation herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Translation of a Telegram addressed by the Grand Vizier to the Mussulmans of Bosnia.

Traduction.)

J'AI lu avec attention votre télégramme du 5 Juillet (style Grec) qui rapportait aux incursions des Monténégrins en Herzégovine, et par lequel vous demandiez aide et protection. Dieu sait que nous ne vous avons pas oubliés, et que nuit et jour, nos efforts tendent à assurer votre bien-être, votre tranquillité. Si, maintenant la fermeture du port de Klek, que les Autrichiens nous ont imposée, tout-à-coup, rend notre tâche plus difficile, il faut toujours espérer en la protection de notre Gouvernement. Ainsi Dervisch Pacha, qui a rendu à la Porte des services si éminents, vient d'être appelé au commandement militaire de la Bosnie et a quitté Mitrovitza. D'autre part de nombreux soldats, des armes, et des approvissionnements, quittent sans cesse la vallée de Yeni-Bazar pour se rendre dans votre province. Je puis vous assurer que Dieu nous protégera, nous accordera la victoire, et que, dans peu de jours, la joie et le bonheur auront remplacé les maux que nous sommes obligés d'endurer en ce moment.

Jusqu'à l'arrivée des troupes Impériales soutenez le choc des ennemis de la religion, aidez-vous les uns les autres, montrez votre courage et sachez que vous avez hérité de la valeur indomptable de ces preux conquérants, de ces fameux patriotes. En vous communiquant cette réponse j'émets l'espoir que vous exécuterez à la lettre les préceptes de notre foi, et que vous resterez fidèles au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté.

Le $\frac{9}{21}$ *Juillet*, 1876.

(Translation.)

I HAVE read attentively your telegram of July 5 (Greek style), with reference to the incursions of the Montenegrins into the Herzegovina, in which you asked for aid and protection. God knows that we have not forgotten you, and that, day and night, our efforts tend to insure your welfare and tranquillity. If, at the present moment, the closing of the port of Klek, suddenly imposed on us by the Austrians, increases the difficulty of our task, yet you must continue to hope in the protection of our Government. Thus Dervisch Pasha, who has rendered such eminent service to the Porte, has just been appointed to the military command of Bosnia, and has left Mitrovitza.

From other quarters, many soldiers, arms, and provisions are continually leaving the valley of Yeni-Bazar for your province. I can assure you that God will protect us, and will grant us the victory, and that, in a few days, joy and happiness will have taken the place of the ills we are forced to endure at this moment.

Until the arrival of the Imperial troops, sustain the shock of the enemies of our religion; assist each other; show your courage, and prove that you have inherited the invincible valour of these famous conquerors and renowned patriots. In communicating this reply to you, I express the hope that you will carry out to the letter the precepts of our faith, and that you will remain faithful to the Government of His Majesty.

July $\frac{9}{21}$, 1876.

No. 8.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 8.)

My Lord, *Rome, August* 4, 1876.

IN conversation with Signor Melegari this morning I remarked upon the independence with which the war in the Turkish provinces is being carried on, and I asked his Excellency whether there appeared to be any signs, as yet, in any quarter, of a desire to intervene. His Excellency replied that for his own part he considered that the time was not yet come when intervention would be useful, and that he thought that the Powers in general were of the same opinion. It appeared to him that if diplomatic action began before the parties to the war had clearly defined themselves as victors and vanquished it would be premature; it would enable either side to say hereafter, "if you had only let us go on we should have been able to obtain the upper hand." A few small victories were sufficient to give rise to such ideas in the hearts of the combatants, although the Powers looking on might form a just estimate of the turn of events. He, therefore, considered

that the decided defeat of one side or the other was eminently desirable before making any proposals with a view to stopping the war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 9.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1876.

IN a conversation which I had recently with Count Beust, his Excellency informed me that the Duc Decazes had sounded the Austro-Hungarian Government with the view of ascertaining whether it would be disposed to take the initiative in bringing about an armistice. The answer given to him had been to the following effect:—

That at the present moment it appeared to be difficult to take such an initiative; that it was not easy to conjecture what conditions would have a chance of being accepted by the Turks, the Servians, and the Montenegrins, each of whom were claiming to be victors; and that, as European diplomacy had failed to prevent the war its present work could only consist in localizing it and in insuring that it should not cause European complications.

It had been pointed out that, when the course of events should have produced a clear and definite situation, such as would lead to the belief that either of the belligerents would be constrained to accept conditions, then would be the opportunity for diplomacy to put pressure upon the others, but that, until there should be an unequivocally decisive military success, that task would be difficult, and propositions would be fruitless unless imposed by force. When events should have pronounced themselves there would be room for hope that the voice of diplomacy, in whatever sense it might speak, would be listened to, and the Austro-Hungarian Government would then be ready either to offer its mediation or to support that of any other Power.

I expressed to Count Beust my entire concurrence in the views of his Government as expressed above.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 10.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 9, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government consider that an English Military Attaché should be sent to the head-quarters of the Turkish army attacking Servia, and I have accordingly to request your Excellency to obtain from the Porte the necessary permission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 11.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received August 10.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August* 9, 1876.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Earl of Derby, the accompanying extracts from a letter from Vice-Admiral the Honourable Sir James Drummond, Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station, giving particulars of foreign ships of war at Salonica and the state of affairs there.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

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* Substance telegraphed.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Vice-Admiral Sir J. Drummond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, "*Hercules*," *at Besika Bay, July* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of their Lordships, that Her Majesty's ship "Research" yesterday returned from Salonica, and Captain Earle reports that the following foreign men-of-war have left that port:—

German.—"Medusa," on 21st July for Malta, England, and Germany.
"Cornet," on 21st July for Constantinople.

Austrian.—"Trini," in July; destination not known.

Russian.—"Isezonapi," on 22nd July, from Smyrna.

The Italian vessels of war "Regina Maria Pia" and "Anthion" arrived there on the 21st from the Gulf of Salonica.

The following vessels of war remain at Salonica:—

German.—"Kaiser," ironclad.
"Deutschland."
"Frederich Karl."
"Kron Prinz."
"Pommerania," dispatch.

French.—"Gauloise," ironclad (flag).
"Couronne."
"Disaix," dispatch.

Turkish.—"Salemen," wood frigate (flag).
"Idglahind," ironclad.

Austrian.—"Salamander," ironclad.

Russian.—"Kalasoni," gun-boat.

Greek.—"King George," ironclad; and the two Italian vessels before named.

Before the "Research" left, Her Majesty's Consul had reported that the departure of the Bashi-Bazouks for the seat of war had produced great quietness in the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. R. DRUMMOND,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

No. 12.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 10, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday's date, respecting the appointment of an English Military Attaché to the head-quarters of the Turkish army which is attacking Servia, I have to instruct your Excellency to request Sir A. Kemball to undertake the duty of proceeding to the Turkish head-quarters, in the above capacity, at all events temporarily.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 13.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 22, 1876.

IN the conversations which I have recently had with the Turkish Ministers, I have expressed the opinion that there was little likelihood of the Porte being left to settle the questions relating to the insurgent provinces, and those connected with Servia and Montenegro, without an understanding with the Great Powers.

If the arrangements to be made are to be brought under the consideration of the Powers, or if a Conference is to be held, it would be more for the dignity and interest of

* Substance telegraphed.

Turkey that the step should be taken upon the invitation and proposal of the Porte itself, rather than that it should wait till some proposal, concocted perhaps without its cognizance, should be submitted to or imposed upon its acceptance.

I expressed this simply as a personal opinion, without knowing how far it might fall in with the views of Her Majesty's Government; but some of the principal Ministers appeared to concur in it.

Any advice now given by Her Majesty's Government is certain to be received with the utmost deference; and if your Lordship considers the course I have suggested desirable, I would urge its adoption upon the Porte, in the event of the imperial troops obtaining a decided advantage; but till some real success has been attained, an appeal to the Powers would be regarded as an admission of weakness which the Porte would be unlikely to make.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 14.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 23, 1876.

ON Saturday I had a further conversation with the Grand Vizier upon the excesses of the Bashi-Bazouks in Bulgaria, but I will not detain your Lordship by recapitulating what passed, it being merely a repetition of the many other conversations that I have had with the Turkish Ministers on this subject.

His Highness having, however, alluded to the case of Boyajikeui as having been grossly misrepresented by the newspapers, I read to him that portion of Mr. Reade's despatch of the 19th instant, in which he states that the account given in the "Daily News" of the 8th had been corroborated to him by a credible witness, except that the latter put the number of victims at 700 instead of 1,300, as given in the newspaper.

The Grand Vizier replied that, so far from either of these accounts being correct, the inquiry which he had instituted showed that only 70 persons out of the village were missing, many of whom were certainly not killed and would reappear.

Till I receive Mr. Baring's report I shall have no means of judging which of these accounts approaches nearest to the truth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 15.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 25, 1876.

A FEW days ago Midhat Pasha called upon me in some despondency at nothing being done to carry out the organic reforms which he is intent upon, and for the necessity of which the Grand Council had pronounced its opinion.

It was, he said, indispensable to prove to the country and to Europe that a new era was being inaugurated.

I saw the Grand Vizier the following morning, and told him that the delay was giving rise to a daily increasing discontent, which it was important to allay as speedily as possible, for while the advocates of reforms were losing heart its opponents were gathering strength.

His Highness had just been speaking to me of the condition of the Sultan, and of His Majesty's incapacity to attend to business, and he again alluded to it, as rendering the promulgation of a system of organic reform for the moment impossible, although he was himself entirely in its favour.

The object of it, he said, was to limit or abolish some of the existing prerogatives of the Crown; and could, he asked, such a measure be promulgated by the Ministers while the Sultan was not in a state to understand the nature of the concessions he was making?

The validity of the new law would be contested by those who were opposed to it, and possibly by the next Sovereign.

The force of this argument is not to be contested, but it shows that the danger to which the country is exposed by being left so long practically without a Sovereign is very great.

Capital sentences are executed, and many other decisions of the Porte are carried out, for which the sanction of the Sultan, conveyed by Imperial Iradé, is strictly indispensable; and when it is generally known that His Majesty's seal is attached to these documents while he is not in a state to understand their contents, a dangerous feeling will be excited against those who may be regarded as illegally exercising the functions of the Sovereign.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 16.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 29, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, giving an account of the volunteer movement in his district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *British Vice-Consulate, Bourgas, July 22, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the volunteers from the district of Bourgas, whose numbers had increased to nearly a hundred, left on Thursday *en route* for Yamboli, but about two hours after their departure a telegram was received from Adrianople ordering them to be recalled, and at the same time a notice was placarded that all Bashi-Bazouks committing outrages upon peaceable Ottoman subjects would be punished with death.

Yesterday official notice was telegraphed that a Bashi-Bazouk had been hung at the town of Hasskeui, near Oujoundjova in the Province of Adrianople, but I am not aware for what crime.

It is well that such orders have been given and such an example made, for the Turkish peasants, volunteers or not, were rapidly being taught to consider the property of their rayah (neighbours) as their (the Turks) own, and I have heard lately even educated Turks, one a Secretary of Chefket Pasha of Boyadjik celebrity, declare that the whole race of the Bulgarians, ~~innocent or guilty, ought to be exterminated~~.

At Karnabad eight volunteers were enrolled, at Slimnia seventeen, and at Aidos thirty-six; the latter pillaged all the rayah villages they passed through; of the other bands I have no information.

Comparatively with other towns Bourgas has passed easily through the ordeal of the volunteer movement. I hear that the recalled Bashi-Bazouks are to be again summoned, but that this time only those of good conduct and good physique will be accepted, a selection which will materially diminish the numbers of the Bourgas contingent.

We have here no authentic news from the seat of war, though the most absurd and contradictory reports are circulated; from what I hear I think it possible that if the Servians were to obtain any important success in Bulgaria they would be joined by such of the Slavs as live within the limits of the ancient kingdom of Servia, and who still continue to call themselves Serbs and not Bulgarians; the latter, I fancy, will not again attempt to rise.

Letters have been received here from an influential Circassian of Constantinople calling upon his countrymen of this district to offer their services, and it is now expected that a corps of some hundred will be raised from the Caza of Bourgas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

No. 17.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 30, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of Mr. Baring's third Report relative to the atrocities in Bulgaria, together with copies of two despatches on the same subject from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, July 27, 1876.*

I LEFT this town on the 23rd instant for the purpose of visiting the burnt villages in the district of Geuk Sou, of which there are two, viz., Prasadura Dervent, called in Bulgarian Klissoura, and Singirli.

On my way I made careful inquiries at all the villages I passed respecting any outrages or acts of pillage in them.

Everywhere I heard the same tale—their cattle and horses had been taken by the Circassians and Pomaks; if they went any distance from their homes they were sure to be plundered, and perhaps beaten; their Turkish neighbours came and demanded bread, meat, and other provisions, and they were afraid to make the smallest complaint for fear of worse things happening to them. I heard one case of forced labour being imposed on some men at Singirli; and at Karlovo, a large village at the foot of the Balkans, I am told that many women had been ravished by Bashi-Bazouks, and that the place had only been saved from being sacked by the firmness of the Mudir and the Mutevelli of the mosque, the inhabitants speaking of the latter in particular in the highest terms.

After the destruction of Dervent the Bashi-Bazouks threatened Sopat, another large and rich village near Karlovo, but by a timely present of 300*l.* Turkish, the inhabitants managed to escape the fate of their neighbours.

Still there was some plundering. The village of Dervent consisted of 800 houses; every one has been burnt. At the outbreak of the insurrection the inhabitants murdered a Turkish kiatib and two zaptiehs, and threw up some rough fortifications, consisting of a low loop-holed stone wall.

The Turkish population marched against them, and, after a slight resistance, entered the village, pillaged, and burnt it. Some 250 Bulgarians are missing out of a population of between 3,500 and 4,000.

The Turkish version is, that on approaching the village they called on the inhabitants several times to surrender, and only attacked on receiving a decided refusal; and further that the villagers themselves, on taking flight to the hills, set fire to their own houses.

I am not inclined quite to accept this story; the villagers, no doubt, were prepared for resistance, nor do they deny having made it any more than they deny having killed the three Turks; but I do not believe that the Bashi-Bazouks once inside ever gave them the chance of surrendering.

From Dervent I proceeded to Kalofer, to find out, if possible, the truth of the awful story respecting the burning of forty-six girls in a barn. I had previously made inquiries here, but neither the Bulgarian Bishop nor any other Bulgarian with whom I spoke knew anything about it.

At Karlovo I heard the story was true, but the way it was told me did not inspire me with any great confidence. As, however, the barn in question was said to be within half an hour's journey of Kalofer, I thought it best to go there to make inquiries. I have now no doubt that the story is an invention. No one in Kalofer could tell me anything about it. Women who had fled from Yenikeui had been met in the mountains by Bashi-Bazouks, robbed of everything, and many were ravished, but no one knew anything of the burning; neither could I discover that any of these fugitive women had been killed, though the dead bodies of men had been found at the foot of the mountain, and no doubt others were killed higher up. Altogether out of an estimated population of about 600, 400 are missing.

Singirli, a village of 177 houses, is certainly burnt, the following story being told by the villagers :—

One day, quite at the outbreak of the insurrection, the priest, the schoolmaster, and some six or seven others called them and told them that the Russians were advancing, and that they must leave their village as the Turks would attack them; those who objected were driven out by force, and twelve Mussulmans (the Turks say thirty-two) who happened to be in the village were murdered. The village was then set on fire, and the inhabitants fled. The Mussulmans, seeing part of the village in flames, went and pillaged all they could, and burnt remaining houses.

The number of persons who are missing from the village is put at eighty, including those in prison. The inhabitants are now living in straw huts built on the ruins.

Being obliged to stay in Philippopoli to-day I called on the Mutessarif, and, in the presence of his Excellency Kiani Pasha, told him how important it was to make some effort at once to cause at least the lost and stolen oxen to be returned to their owners, in order that they might gather and thrash their crops before it was too late.

Kiani Pasha suggested the following plan, which, though not perfect, is still better than nothing.

A large quantity of cattle, sheep, and goats are in the hands of the authorities here, and his Excellency advised the Mutessarif to telegraph to tell the Porte to allow a notice to be sent to the different villages for the headmen to come forward and claim their lost property within a given space of time. Should they fail to do so, the oxen would be distributed among the villages which had suffered most, and the sheep, if not claimed, would be sold, and the money deposited in the Government chest. Later on, when things were quiet, should the proceeds of the sale meet the full claims of the owners who presented themselves, they would be satisfied in full; if, on the contrary, the money in hand fell short of the total value of the sheep claimed, a distribution would be made *pro rata.*

What makes any plan of this sort difficult to carry out is that the villagers are afraid to travel here to make their claims; and the only way by which public security can be re-established is by making a few striking examples to the Mussulman villages, and by disarming the Mussulman population. At present the latter go about armed to the teeth, while I do not believe there is such a thing as an offensive weapon in the hands of a single Christian.

Three out of the four men sentenced to death, as reported in my last despatch, were hung to-day, the priest of Avrat-Alan being among the number. His hair was not cut off nor his beard shaved, but he was not hung in his canonicals.

The authorities have kept their word respecting the release of certain prisoners, as in the last four days nearly 200 have been set free, and I hear that others will be released in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, July* 20, 1876.

THE impunity which was suffered to cover the misdeeds of the Bashi-Bazouks employed in the suppression of the Bulgarian insurrection, seems to have encouraged the fanaticism and rapacity of the lower order of Turks to an extent unknown to the present generation.

While many Bulgarians were hanged for defending their homes and families against the Bashi-Bazouks, not one of these latter was punished for the atrocities committed on innocent men, women, and children. A partiality so evident as this was not calculated to inspire into the Mussulmans that respect for Christian life, honour, or property, so essential for the peace of Turkey.

Hence, as soon as orders were issued to enlist Bashi-Bazouks for the Servian campaign, serious fears were entertained by the Christian population lest this second lévée should imitate the exploits of the first. Unfortunately no measures of precaution were taken by the Government; these fears were soon realized. On the 11th and 12th the Bashi-Bazouks enlisted among the Kurdjalys met together at Hasskeui.

After committing excesses in that town, which ought to have been sufficient warning

for the authorities, they were suffered to depart for Philippopoli. The Caza of Hasskeui and the Makié of Kinoush, which had escaped comparatively speaking unhurt the former razzia of the Bashi-Bazouks, were destined this time to become the scene of new outrages and fresh horrors.

The plan of operations adopted by these troops for this their second expedition was this, as I am informed. On starting from their homes they generally got themselves accompanied by their fathers, brothers, and other relatives, and as many horses and mules as they could borrow or steal. As soon as they arrived at some Bulgarian village they set to work to extort money from the inhabitants, and to pillage churches, houses, and barns. The money was generally taken by the Bashi-Bazouks, while the furniture, clothes, and household goods were packed on the horses and mules, and sent back to the villages under the escort of their relatives as spoils of war.

Numerous are the villages which have thus more or less suffered from the depredations of the Kurdjaly and Pomak Bashi-Bazouks. These are the names of a few:—Dervent Yemmahallé (where a labourer and two other people are reported to have been killed by the irregulars, and several women dishonoured; Tchitak, where many persons are said to have been wounded, and a few killed; Tatarevo, Hadjilss, Yorchi, Karadja, Kahlevo, Hodjanovo, where the inhabitants having fled, the church was desecrated and sacked, and the houses completely sacked; Konvusch, Tchesnir, Yeni Mahallé, Kodjajovo, Katounitza, Papadj, Kasgnovo, Komale, Pasha Mahalle Karajorch, where the communion cup having been taken by the Bashi-Bazouks the inhabitants had to pay 300 piastres for its restitution, Kategli, &c.

To give some idea of the work done by the irregulars, and of their eagerness to join the army on the Servian frontier, it will suffice to mention that the journey from Hasskeui to Philippopoli, which is generally performed in two days, took most of the Bashi-Bazouks six days to accomplish.

While outrages like these were committed by the irregulars that proceeded on foot, the excesses of those who were forwarded by rail from Adrianople were no less serious; it is proved that in many places they fired from the train on inoffensive Bulgarian labourers, and a case is mentioned as having occurred at Adakeui, where two women and a man were wounded while attending to their work in the fields. The number of deaths thus brought about by the excesses of the Bashi-Bazouks since the 10th instant is estimated at some twenty people; as regards the loss of property it cannot as yet be calculated.

It is true that when these fresh outrages were reported to the Turkish authorities a number of Bashi-Bazouks were arrested at Philippopoli, and searched for stolen goods and valuables, but it is questionable whether they will ever be restored to their owners; besides it will be impossible to find the household objects and clothes of the Bulgarian sufferers, as they were carried off by horseloads from the plundered villages, and must have been disposed of by this time.

As regards the punishment of the offenders, I believe that sixty-seven persons have been imprisoned at Philippopoli, and the others have been sent on to the seat of war.

Seven of these were imprisoned in the prison, and the rest in a khan. One of them, a Bimbashi, was hanged on the 19th instant, as I reported to your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 17.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, July 27, 1876.*

I BEG to acquaint your Excellency that on the 18th instant I visited two small Bulgarian villages in this vicinity, and found them partly burnt down; but on the following day I hired a carriage and drove to Peroushtiza, a large village at the foot of the Rhodope mountains, and found the whole place reduced to a mass of charred ruins, not so much as a single house left standing. This flourishing village contained at one time 400 houses, 2 churches, 1 monastery, and 2 schools; it also boasted of wine, spirit, and silk factories, and paid to Government annually a revenue amounting to some 10,000 liras; all this has entirely disappeared. It was burnt down on the 13th of May last by the Bashi-Bazouks, under the command of Tumbruṣh Ahmed Aga. Pope Stoïmen, with his children and people, it is said, were massacred while making their submission to that Chief. A second priest, Pope Peter, is, I believe, still in prison. As far as I can learn, it appears that these

priests took an active part in resistin the authorities when called upon to give up their arms. The inhabitants are also accused of having provoked the anger of the Turks by killing two of their people, belonging to a neighbouring village, some time before.

M. Gueroff, the Russian Consul of Philippopoli, now absent, is said to be the chief cause of this disaster.

In company with Mr. Baring, I have since visited Klissoura (Prasadin Derwent), another large village also completely burnt down. This was the work of Toussoun Bey's Bashi-Bazouks, on the 8th of May last. It contained about 600 houses, with church and two schools. Here, again, the priests and schoolmasters appear to have been active agents in resisting the authorities and in inducing the people to take up arms.

Yesterday we visited Singirli, a third large village, containing at one time 200 houses, with church and school, the whole of which has been entirely burnt down. This place, I am told, was one of the first to rise, a house being set on fire in the instance by the priest of the village, to compel the inhabitants to take up arms against the Turks, telling them that the Russians were advancing to their assistance. Some twelve Turks were killed by the Bulgarians in the beginning of the affair; it was then attacked by the Bashi-Bazouks, who completely gutted it.

With regard to the statement which appeared in the public papers, that forty Bulgarian young women, after having been violated by the Bashi-Bazouks, were shut up in an "ayasma" and afterwards burnt alive, I found, on inquiry at Kalofer, that while it is true they were dishonoured, pillaged, and many killed, yet not a single woman was burnt alive. I have not reported the above to the Foreign Office, as I hope to be able to give further details on my return to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. DUPUIS.

No. 18.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 31, 1876.

THE project of forming a mixed corps of Mussulmans and Christians has come to nothing.

It was at one time very confidently stated that several hundred Greeks and as many Armenians had immediately entered, but it is now certain that the number of Christian volunteers is insignificant.

The case is different in Albania, where the Christians are as anxious as the Mussulmans to resist the invasion of the Montenegrins and Servians.

I am assured that there are not now less than from 40,000 to 50,000 volunteers employed, and the evils of having such a force, for which it will be impossible to find officers to enforce discipline, must now become apparent, and the result of the excesses that they are likely to commit may be the European intervention in the interests of humanity which the Porte is so desirous of avoiding.

It must, however, in fairness, be stated, on the other side of the question, that foreign officers who have visited the volunteer encampment have been greatly struck with the extraordinary rapid progress made by these men after a very short drill, and by their aptitude for quickly becoming efficient soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 19

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 1, 1876.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 11th ultimo, I informed Sir Arnold Kemball that Her Majesty's Government would be most happy to avail themselves of his offer to undertake, temporarily, the duties of Military Attaché to this Embassy, and I have now the honour to inclose copy of the reply which I have received from that officer.

I have notified his appointment to the Porte, requesting that facilities shall be afforded him in carrying out his duties; and Sir Arnold informs me that he has been received with marked courtesy by the authorities he has called upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Therapia, July 29, 1876.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of yesterday, informing me that the Earl of Derby had been pleased to acquiesce in your Excellency's proposal that I should undertake the duties of Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy, in addition to my duties as a member of the Turco-Persian Boundary Commission, so long as that Commission lasts, or until an officer is permanently appointed.

Your Excellency is aware that, owing to my long employment on political duties, I cannot pretend to a practical and progressive acquaintance with the altered conditions of tactics and organization in the military systems of Europe during the past few years.

I may, therefore, expose myself to the charge of presumption in assuming the duties of a post which, as a rule, is held to involve the investigation of technical and scientific details, to be turned to the advantage of Her Majesty's service; but as, in these respects, the English army has probably little to learn from the Turks, while the information to be acquired is rather of a statistical and strategic nature, within my competency, I trust, in its acquisition, to be able to give satisfaction to your Excellency and to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. R. KEMBALL.

No. 20.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

My Lord, *Therapa, August 4, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the troops which have been sent by His Highness the Khedive, as a contingent from Egypt to take part in the war, have left Constantinople in two divisions, on their way to the front.

The corps consists, I am told, of 9,000 men, well equipped in every respect, and accompanied by artillery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 21.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 5, 1876.

DURING the last few days two persons connected with the present Government of this country have spoken to me in the strictest confidence on the prospects of their country.

They admitted that the success of the present war was becoming very doubtful, and that the struggle, if it is to produce any result, must become a protracted one, which would, of course, require immense and continual sacrifices on the part of Servia.

One of these gentlemen hinted that some of his friends were alarmed at the part played here by Russian officers and emissaries, and he went so far as to say that some of these were suspected of following in this campaign Russian instead of specific Servian interests, and he expressed regret that Her Majesty's Government showed no disposition to take upon itself the part of a mediator in the present struggle, which was likely to be, in the long run, as injurious to Turkey as to Servia, and he dilated at some length on the influence which England would derive from acting such a part on this occasion.

I told both these gentlemen that I believed that no mediation could be successful until the Servian Government was prepared to acknowledge its fault in creating this war of its own making, and in admitting itself worsted and defeated.

I said further that such an application to be entertained must proceed from Servia, and be made formally, adding that I doubted very much whether Her Majesty's Government would feel disposed to any action in this question separate and unknown to the other Great Powers.

As the principal object of my interlocutors was evidently to elicit from me some expression of a prospect that British influence would be ultimately exercised in favour of Servia without previous consultation with any other Power, my answer produced a discouraging effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 22.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 11.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Le* 19 *Juillet*, 1876.

POUR faire suite à mon télégramme du 10 de ce mois, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, pour votre information, copie de la correspondance échangée entre mon Département et l'Agence des Principautés Unies à Constantinople, relativement aux opérations de la flotille Impériale sur le Danube.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *July* 19, 1876.

AS a sequel to my telegram of the 10th of this month, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for your information, copies of the correspondence which has passed between my department and the Agency of the United Principalities at Constantinople, respecting the operations of the Imperial squadron on the Danube.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

The Agency of the United Principalities to Safvet Pasha.

Le $\frac{19 \text{ Juin}}{1 \text{ Juillet}}$, 1876.

IL résulte des informations reçues par mon Gouvernement que la Turquie se proposerait, au cas d'une guerre avec la Serbie, de faire remonter le Danube à ses bâtiments de guerre soit pour croiser dans les eaux Serbo-Roumaines, soit pour attaquer la Serbie par le côté du fleuve situé entre cette Principauté et la Roumanie.

L'envoi d'une flotte de guerre dans le Danube et principalement dans la région mentionnée plus haut ne laisse pas que de préoccuper vivement le Gouvernement de Son Altesse Sérène le Prince Charles.

Si les eaux Serbo-Roumaines devenaient le théâtre d'une croisière ou d'hostilités effectives, il y a toute probabilité, vu l'exiguité de l'arène et la difficulté pour les belligérants de se maintenir et d'opérer en dehors de la démarcation fluviale Roumaine, que cette croisière ou ces hostilités donneraient naissance à des conflits, soulèveraient des questions de droit, occasionneraient des dommages matériels à la Roumanie, et placeraient notre pays, si désireux de garder la plus stricte neutralité, dans une situation pénible en même temps que périlleuse. De soudaines éventualités l'exposeraient à voir sa neutralité méconnue ou même violée.

Dans ces circonstances, et en prévision de ces éventualités, il est d'un haut intérêt pour la Sublime Porte et pour le Gouvernement Roumain de chercher, par un commun accord, à écarter tout ce qui, de près ou de loin, serait de nature à provoquer de nouvelles complications ou à grossir les complications existantes.

Mon Gouvernement pense que le seul moyen de prévenir tout danger de ce genre et d'éviter toute aggravation de la situation, est de stipuler, dès le principe, la neutralisation de la région du Danube comprise entre la Serbie et la Roumanie, c'est-à-dire, entre les villes de Negotin et de Verciorova.

Grâce à cette stipulation, les questions si complexes et si délicates qui sans elle auraient pris naissance, seraient éludées, le Gouvernement Roumain, dispensé de recourir aux mesures onéreuses que lui imposerait le devoir de sauvegarder sa neutralité, pourrait réserver et consacrer son entière vigilance à empêcher sur son territoire toute manœuvre illicite et attentatoire à la tranquillité de la rive droite du Danube, en un mot serait à même de maintenir l'attitude dont le Gouvernement Impérial a eu maintes occasions d'apprécier la correction constante et la parfaite loyauté.

En conséquence, j'ai l'honneur, au nom de mon Gouvernement, de solliciter de la Sublime Porte la neutralisation du Danube entre Negotin et Verciorova ; et j'ose espérer que le Gouvernement Impérial s'empressera d'accueillir favorablement une demande si légitime à tous égards.

Dans l'attente d'une réponse qui me permettrait de communiquer à mon Gouvernement la décision de la Sublime Porte, &c.

(Translation.)

June 19 / July 1, 1876.

IT appears from the information received by my Government that Turkey proposes, in case of war with Servia, to send her men of war up the Danube, either to cruize in Servo-Roumanian waters, or to attack Servia from the river which flows between that Principality and Roumania.

The dispatch of a squadron up the Danube, and especially to the above-mentioned district, seriously engages the attention of the Government of His Serene Highness Prince Charles.

If the Servo-Roumanian waters became the scene of a cruizing ground, or of actual hostilities, there is every probability, considering the small size of the arena, and the difficulty the belligerents would experience in maintaining and carrying on operations outside the Roumanian boundary of the river, that this cruizing ground or these hostilities would produce conflicts, raise questions of right, be the occasion of material loss to Roumania, and place our country, so desirous of preserving the strictest neutrality, in a painful and, at the same time, dangerous situation. Sudden eventualities might expose it to the risk of seeing its neutrality disregarded or even violated.

Under these circumstances, and in view of these eventualities, it is of great importance to the Sublime Porte and to the Roumanian Government to endeavour, by mutual agreement, to remove everything, near or far, likely to call forth new complications, or to increase those already existing.

My Government is of opinion that the only way of preventing all danger of this kind, and of avoiding any aggravation of the situation, is to stipulate, from the beginning, for the neutralization of the region of the Danube comprised between Servia and Roumania, that is to say, between the towns of Negotin and Verciorova.

Thanks to this stipulation, the very complicated and delicate questions which, without it, would arise, will be avoided; the Roumanian Government, freed from the necessity of having recourse to the onerous measures which the duty of protecting its neutrality would impose upon it, would be able to reserve and devote its whole attention to the task of preventing, on its territory, any illegal manœuvre, or any attempt to violate the tranquillity of the right bank of the Danube; in a word, would be in a position to

maintain the attitude of which the Imperial Government has had manifold opportunities of appreciating the constant correctness and perfect loyalty.

Consequently, I have the honour, in the name of my Government, to solicit from the Sublime Porte the neutralization of the Danube between Negotin and Verciorova; and I venture to hope that the Imperial Government will hasten to receive favourably a demand so legitimate in every respect.

Awaiting a reply which will permit me to communicate to my Government the decision of the Sublime Porte, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

The Agency of the United Principalities to Safvet Pasha.

Le $\frac{22 \text{ Juin}}{4 \text{ Juillet}}$, 1876.

POUR faire suite à la note en date du $\frac{19 \text{ Juin}}{1 \text{ Juillet}}$ courant, par laquelle j'ai eu l'honneur, au nom de mon Gouvernement, de solliciter du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman la neutralisation du Danube entre Négotin et Verciorova, je m'empresse de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence, que mon Gouvernement a obtenu de la Serbie l'assurance qu'elle n'attaquera pas l'Ile d'Ada-Kalé, s'abstiendra de toute opération offensive sur le Danube, et se bornera, dans cette région, à une stricte défensive.

Je dois, en même temps, informer votre Excellence qu'afin d'accomplir les devoirs qui incombent à la Roumanie en qualité de pays neutre, et dans le but de sauvegarder par des mesures efficaces cette neutralité, le Gouvernément Roumain a jugé nécessaire de concentrer un corps d'observation à Gronia.

En fournissant ces renseignments à votre Excellence, et en vertu des instructions dont je suis muni, je prends la liberté d'insister auprès de votre Excellence pour que le Gouvernement Impérial adhère à une proposition qui a rallié l'approbation et l'appui de MM. les Représentants des Puissances Garantes, et consente à la neutralisation du Danube entre Négotin et Verciorova.

J'ose espérer que votre Excellence voudra bien m'honorer d'une prompte réponse à ce sujet.

Je prie, &c.

(Translation.)

$\frac{\text{June } 22}{\text{July } 4}$, 1876.

AS a sequel to my note of $\frac{\text{June } 19}{\text{July } 1}$, in which I had the honour, in the name of my Government, to solicit from the Imperial Ottoman Government the neutralization of the Danube between Negotin and Verciorova, I hasten to bring to the knowledge of your Excellency that my Government has obtained from Servia the assurance that she will not attack the Island of Ada-Kalé, that she will refrain from all offensive operations on the Danube, and will strictly limit herself, in that region, to the defensive.

I should, at the same time, inform your Excellency that, in order to fulfil the duties incumbent on Roumania as a neutral country, and with the object of protecting this neutrality by effective measures, the Roumanian Government has judged it necessary to concentrate a corps of observation at Gronia.

While supplying this information to your Excellency, and by virtue of the instructions with which I am provided, I take the liberty of renewing my request to your Excellency that the Imperial Government should adhere to a proposition which has received the approbation and support of the representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers, and consent to the neutralization of the Danube between Negotin and Verciorova.

I venture to hope that your Excellency will kindly honour me with a speedy reply on this subject.

I beg, &c.

Inclosure 3 in No. 22.

Safvet Pasha to Prince Ghika.

Le 6 Juillet, 1876.

J'AI reçu les deux lettres que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le 31 Juin et 4 Juillet, pour demander, au nom du Gouvernement Princier, qu'en prévision de l'envoi de bâtiments de guerre dans le Danube pour attaquer la Serbie du côté du fleuve et des dangers que les opérations militaires éventuelles feraient courir à la rive gauche du Danube,

la partie du Danube comprise entre Négotin et Verciorova soit neutralisée afin d'épargner au pays les difficultés d'une situation périlleuse, et de lui faciliter la tâche de sauvegarder strictement son attitude de neutralité.

Le désir du Gouvernement Impérial est d'amoindrir dans la mesure du possible les maux pouvant résulter de l'insurrection de Serbie. Il ne négligera rien pour resserrer le plus possible le cercle des calamités que l'insurrection essaie de déchaîner sur d'autres parties de l'Empire, et il ne doute nullement que le Gouvernement Princier n'apprécie la situation et les nécessités que cette insurrection intérieure crée aussi bien au Gouvernement Impérial qu'au Gouvernement Princier.

La flotille qui se trouve dans le Danube aurait actuellement pour mission d'empêcher que les insurgés ne se servissent de cette voie pour ce procurer des armes, des munitions de guerre, et en général de tout ce qui pourrait servir à alimenter l'insurrection et faciliter les opérations des insurgés. La Sublime Porte serait, par conséquent, heureuse de pouvoir compter sur le concours du Gouvernement Princier pour obtenir ce but sans être obligée de se servir de sa flotille au delà de l'embouchure du Timok. Aussi, comme le Gouvernement Princier assure qu'Ada-Kalé ne sera ni attaqué ni menacé par les Serbes, et qu'il s'engage à empêcher dans la partie du Danube, qui s'étend entre l'embouchure du Timok et Verciorova, tout transport d'armes, de munitions, d'équipements, d'objets pouvant servir de matériel de guerre, de volontaires, de chevaux, &c., pour le compte des Serbes, le Gouvernement Impérial, de son côté, donnera à ses navires l'ordre de ne point dépasser l'embouchure du Timok. Le Gouvernement Impérial est persuadé que cet accord permettra d'atteindre le but que le Gouvernement Princier se propose, et garantira au commerce la sécurité sur laquelle il doit pouvoir compter dans les circonstances actuelles, en plaçant la rive gauche du Danube entre les points indiqués pour autant que cela dépendra de lui à l'abri des épreuves de la guerre.

Il va de soi que le Gouvernement Princier fournira au Gouvernement Impérial toutes les facilités nécessaires pour le transport des approvisionnements et équipements des forces qui se trouvent actuellement sur l'île d'Ada-Kalé.

(Translation.)

July 6, 1876.

I HAVE received the two letters which you were so good as to address to me on the 31st June and 4th July, requesting, in the name of the Prince's Government, that, in anticipation of the dispatch of men-of-war to the Danube to attack Servia from the river, and of the dangers to which the eventual military operations would expose the left bank of the Danube, the part of the Danube between Negotin and Verciorova might be neutralized, in order to spare the country the difficulties of a perilous situation, and to facilitate for it the task of preserving strictly its attitude of neutrality.

The Imperial Government desires to lessen, as far as possible, the evils that may result from the insurrection of Servia. It will neglect nothing to contract, as much as possible, the circle of the calamities which the insurrection tries to let loose on other parts of the Empire, and it doubts not that the Prince's Government rightly estimates the situation and the obligations created by this internal insurrection, which devolve on the Imperial Government as well as on that of the Prince.

The flotilla in the Danube has the task of preventing the insurgents from availing themselves of this means to procure arms, munitions of war, and generally all that might serve to feed the insurrection and facilitate the insurgents' operations. Consequently, the Sublime Porte would be glad to be enabled to count upon the concurrence of the Prince's Government to attain this result, without being obliged to employ her flotilla beyond the mouth of the Timok. Further, since the Prince's Government gives an assurance that Ada-Kalé will neither be attacked nor threatened by the Servians, and since it pledges itself to prevent, in that part of the Danube which extends from the mouth of the Timok to Verciorova, all transport of arms, munitions, baggage, and articles which might serve as war material, volunteers, horses, &c., on behalf of the Servians, the Imperial Government, on its side, will give orders to its vessels not to go beyond the mouth of the Timok. The Imperial Government is convinced that this agreement will secure the attainment of the object proposed by the Prince's Government, and will guarantee to trade the security which it should be enabled to count upon under existing circumstances, by placing the left bank of the Danube within the points indicated, as far as depends upon it, in security from the risks of the war.

Of course the Prince's Government will supply the Imperial Government with all necessary facilities for the transport of provisions and baggage of the forces, which are actually on the Island of Ada-Kalé.

No. 23.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador, in the course of a conversation which he held with me this morning, stated that his Government had from the first decided, in reference to the present war, to treat Montenegro as an independent State. Count Andrassy conceived that Austria had a clear right to do so, never having acknowledged that the territory in question formed a part of the Ottoman Empire, and that a recognition of its independence was dictated neither by hostility to the Porte nor by the sympathy of the Montenegrins. Disputes, he said, had often arisen between the Cabinet of Vienna and the Prince; they did so in 1869, and causes of difference might, and probably would recur; in that event it was obviously inconvenient to be compelled to refer to Constantinople before any action could be taken or any remonstrance offered. By treating Montenegro as independent they could bring direct pressure to bear on the Prince, if necessary, and hold him responsible for his acts without having to deal with any other Power.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 24.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 11, 1876, 8 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, letters from Mr. Baring sent to your Lordship by post, establish fact of frightful cruelties having taken place, although some bad cases alleged have been disproved.

He has not reported to me that 10,000 persons had been massacred, but above that number had perished, and I do not imagine that he will be able to estimate proportion in which they have been killed while fighting or murdered afterwards.

General Ignatieff long maintained that there was no insurrection in Bulgaria, and urged that it was needless for the Porte to send troops there. If they had been dispatched in time the arming of the Bashi-Bazouks and the excesses resulting from it might, perhaps, have been avoided.

The statement of the Russian Consul that no prisoner was released is at variance with that of Mr. Baring, who wrote that they were being released every day, and that not above 300 remained in the prison at Philippopoli.

A letter from Mr. Baring received yesterday contains these words:—"There is not the slightest doubt that the Russian Consul at Philippopoli had a leading part in creating the late insurrection."

No. 25.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 12.)

My Lord, *Scutari, July* 31, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, concerning the sacrilege committed by some Zeibek Bashi-Bazouks on the Orthodox Slav Church at Antivari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, July* 31, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have been informed that a few days ago some Zeibek Bashi-Bazouks, recently arrived from Smyrna, whilst passing

through Antivari, broke all the windows of the Orthodox Slav Church, defiled its entrance and some graves in its vicinity, but did not enter the building.

I have not heard that the authorities interfered with the proceedings of the Zeibeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 26.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me on the 3rd instant, and requested my attention to the following passage which occurs in my despatch to Sir A. Paget of the 1st ultimo, being No. 332 of the "Papers on the Affairs of Turkey," laid before Parliament: "Some general conversation as to the state of the Turkish Empire followed, in the course of which General Menabrea stated it to be the conviction of his Government that no effectual settlement of the troubles in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be arrived at that did not include the grant of autonomy in some shape to these Provinces."

His Excellency reminded me that in discussing with him the measures for restoring peace to the insurgent provinces, he had put forward certain ideas on the various plans for autonomy which had been proposed with this object; and that having inquired of him whether he was speaking in the name of his Government, he had replied that his Government had but one thought, that of assisting in the re-establishment of peace; that they had not entered into any explanation as to the means to be employed with this object, for they were desirous of not separating themselves, as far as might be possible, from what the other Powers, and especially England, might do; that as regards the idea of autonomy, his Excellency had been led to examine this question, seeing that it appeared to be entertained by politicians in England, but that, up to the present time, he had no authority to make any proposals on this subject.

General Menabrea pointed out that what he had stated, and which he believed to be now literally repeated by him, had a very different bearing to what had been published in the Blue Book, which attributed to his Government an opinion in favour of autonomy, whilst the ideas which his Excellency had broached were of the nature of an inquiry beforehand into a question included in the number of those which might hereafter be considered.

Having made this communication to me, I promised General Menabrea that it should be recorded in a despatch to Sir Augustus Paget, and included in the next collection of papers on this subject laid before Parliament.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 27.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1876.

YOU may suggest to Prince Milan that, should he appeal to the Powers for their good offices to bring about a mediation, his application would be favourably received by England, but Her Majesty's Government do not propose to mediate unless invited to do so by Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 28.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1876.

YOU may inform the Government to which you are accredited that the following telegram has been sent to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade:—

"Her Majesty's Government will not propose mediation unless asked for, but you may suggest to Prince Milan that an application from him to the Powers for their good offices would be favourably received by England."

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 29.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 14, 1876.

I HAVE instructed Mr. Frederick Calvert to go to Philippopoli as Acting Vice-Consul.

No. 30.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated by M. Bartholomei, August 15.)

M. le Comte, *Peterhof, le* 28 *Juillet*, 1876.

LE gérant de notre Consulat à Philippopoli nous mande, en date du $\frac{20 \text{ Juillet}}{7 \text{ Août}}$, que la Commission Anglaise, chargée d'une enquête sur les massacres de Bulgarie, est revenue dans cette ville après avoir visité un grand nombre de villages. Les données qu'elle a recueillies confirment entièrement les faits mentionnés dans les rapports de notre Agent et qui avaient toujours été communiqués par M. le Général Ignatiew à ses collègues y compris M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.

Mr. Baring, délégué par Sir H. Elliot pour cette enquête, a constaté lui-même que le nombre des personnes tuées dans le seul district de Philippopoli s'élève à 10,000. Il a vu jusqu'à 1,000 cadavres non ensevelis dans un seul village. Il a été également constaté que les misères de tout genre qu'endure la population sont affreuses et que l'autorité Turque est complètement impuissante à y remédier.

Le Prince Tzérételew ajoute que la présence de Kiani Pacha n'a amené absolument aucun résultat. L'anarchie est complète. Ce ne sont plus seulement les Bashi-Bazouks et les Circassiens qui commettent ces atrocités. Ce sont tous les Musulmans.

Jusqu'à présent on avait tué ou emprisonné les Chrétiens d'abord sous prétexte d'insurrection, ensuite sous prétexte de les désarmer; actuellement on n'allègue aucun motif pour continuer à pressurer et torturer la population. Les Musulmans ne permettent pas de reconstruire les maisons incendiées. Les récoltes restent sur pied, les champs ne sont pas labourés, le bétail a été enlevé. Des milliers d'hommes, de femmes, et d'enfants errent sans abri ni subsistance à l'approche de la mauvaise saison. La mortalité est énorme, surtout parmi les enfants. Le typhus sévit dans les prisons d'où on ne laisse sortir aucun des riches Bulgares. La nation est réduite au désespoir par ces calamités dont elle n'entrevoit pas même la fin. Elle attend avec terreur le moment où les Bashi-Bazouks et les Circassiens actuellement envoyés sur le théâtre de la guerre en Serbie traverseront la Bulgarie pour retourner chez eux. On s'attend à ce qu'ils achèvent la dévastation de ce qui reste dans le pays.

Veuillez porter ces informations à la connaissance de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

* Substance telegraphed, and similar telegrams sent to Lord A. Loftus, Mr. Macdonell, Mr. Malet, Sir A. Buchanan, and Lord Lyons.

(Translation.)

M. le Comte, *Peterhof, July* 28, 1876.

OUR Acting Consul at Philippopolis informs us, under date of $\frac{20\text{th July,}}{7\text{th August,}}$ that the English Commission, charged with an inquiry into the Bulgarian massacres, has returned to that town after visiting a great number of villages. The data it has collected entirely confirm the facts mentioned in the reports of our Agent, and which were always communicated by General Ignatiew to his colleagues, including the English Ambassador.

Mr. Baring, delegated by Sir H. Elliot for this inquiry, has verified for himself that the number of persons killed in the district of Philippopolis alone amounts to 10,000. He has seen as many as 1,000 corpses unburied in a single village. It has been likewise proved that the misery of all kinds undergone by the population is frightful, and that Turkish authorities are completely unable to relieve it.

Prince Izérételew adds that the presence of Kiani Pasha has brought about absolutely no result. Complete anarchy prevails. It is not only Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians who commit these atrocities. All the Mussulmans do so.

Up to now they killed or imprisoned the Christians, first under pretext of insurrection, then under pretext of disarming them. At this moment they allege no motive for continuing to oppress and torture the population. The Mussulmans do not permit the rebuilding of houses burnt down. The crops remain standing, the fields are not tilled, the live stock has been carried off. Thousands of men, women, and children wander about without shelter or means of subsistence at the eve of the bad season. The mortality is enormous, especially among the children. Typhus rages in the prisons, which none of the rich Bulgarians are allowed to leave. The nation is reduced to despair by these calamities, of which it cannot even see the end. It awaits with terror the moment when the Bashi-Bazouks and the Circassians, now sent to the theatre of the war in Servia, shall pass through Bulgaria on their return home. It is fully expect that they will complete the destruction of everything that is left in the country.

Be good enough to bring this information to the knowledge of the Foreign Minister.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) GORTCHAKOW.

No. 31.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, August* 7, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed on the 30th ultimo by Prince Nikita to Moukhtar Pasha, relative to the burial of the dead on the battle-field at Urbitza.

The bearer of this letter was charged with another addressed by the Chief of his Highness' Staff to the Commander of the Turkish troops at Bilek, requesting that if the Pasha were not there, the Prince's letter might be forwarded to him.

As soon, however, as the messenger was seen, he was fired upon by the Turks at Bilek. He showed a white flag, but the firing being continued, he had to run away, and only escaped by fleetness of foot, and by the bad shooting of the Turks. The letters were subsequently passed in by means of some women.

As soon as I heard yesterday of this violation of a flag of truce, I informed the Turkish Consul-General of the occurrence, expressing my opinion of the conduct of the Turks in very strong language, and saying that, at a moment when public opinion in Europe was protesting against their savage manner of carrying on the war, any such incident would materially increase the disfavour with which their treatment of their enemies is regarded. Danish Effendi assured me that he would write at once to Moukhtar Pasha, who was probably still ignorant of the facts of the case.

The Prince's letter itself, as your Lordship will see, is as courteous as the usages of civilized warfare enjoin, and contains nothing which might not emanate from a commander thoroughly versed in all the requirements of military etiquette, in respect of communications betweeen hostile belligerents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Prince Nicholas to Moukhtar Pasha.

Excellence, *Camp de Vuci Dol, près Bilek, le* $\frac{18}{30}$ *Juillet,* 1876.

BIEN que la plupart des morts de la journée du 28 ait reçu la sépulture de la main de mes troupes, il en reste encore un grand nombre surtout dans la partie du champ de bataille le plus rapproché de Bilek.

Convaincu que votre Excellence doit désirer de s'acquitter de ce devoir pour le voisinage de ses cantonnements, je viens lui offrir de m'entendre avec elle pour cela, et je suis prêt à recevoir un parlementaire pour arrêter les détails de l'opération.

J'ai le regret de vous annoncer que l'on a rélevé parmi les morts le corps d'un Général Turc, que des prisonniers ont reconnu pour être celui de Sélim Pacha. Je lui ai fait donner la sépulture avec les honneurs militaires dus à son rang et à sa fin honorable.

D'autre part j'ai le plaisir de pouvoir vous donner de bonnes nouvelles du Général de Brigade Osman Pacha, qui a été fait prisonnier au moment où, avec le plus grand sangfroid, il s'efforçait de rallier ses hommes au plus chaud de l'action. Il est parti pour Cettigné ; et je me permets de recommander à votre Excellence sa demande que ses baggages soient envoyés à sa disposition à Grahowo.

Je saisis, &c.
Le Prince de Monténégro,
(Signé) NICHOLAS.

(Translation.)

Excellency, *Camp of Vuci Dol, near Bilek, July* $\frac{18}{30}$, 1876.

ALTHOUGH most of the killed of the 28th have been buried by my troops there still remains a large number, especially on that part of the field of battle which is nearest Bilek.

Being convinced that your Excellency must desire, considering the vicinity of your cantonments, to execute this task, I offer to make an arrangement with you for the purpose, and I am ready to receive an envoy in order to decide the details of the operation.

I regret to inform you that among the dead has been found the body of a Turkish General, which prisoners have recognized as that of Selim Pasha. I have caused him to be buried with the military honours due to his rank and his honourable death.

On the other hand, I am pleased to be able to give you good news of Brigadier-General Osman Pasha, who was taken prisoner at the moment when he was attempting, with the greatest coolness, to rally his men in the heat of the action. He has started for Cettigné, and I recommend to your Excellency his request that his baggage may be sent to his disposal at Grahovo.

I seize, &c.
The Prince of Montenegro,
(Signed) NICHOLAS.

No. 32.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 15.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, August* 8, 1876.

I AM informed that two Herzegovinian refugees, who have for some months past been employed, in company with Dalmatians from the districts of Brenno and Canale, in conveying provisions to Trebigné for the Turks, have been shot by order of the Turkish Commandant at Drina, the frontier fort on the road between the town just mentioned and Ragusa. It is said that one of these men was detained during two days, and told that he might ransom himself by the payment of a few (I think 3) ducats; and, at the expiration of that time, not being able to produce the money, was put to death, and that his body was subsequently given up to his brother on payment of the sum demanded.

The attempted exaction of a sum of money from the unfortunate man was, I presume, understood as a justifiable step for the recovery of arrears of taxes.

These men were undoubtedly foolish to place themselves in the power of the Turks; but their execution seems to me none the less barbarous, unless they were suspected of

being spies, of which I have no information. They were at any rate non-combatants, and in Turkish employ, and if suspected of treachery, were entitled to some form of trial.

I cannot say that this incident has embittered the resentment entertained here against Turkish savagery, for that sentiment was long ago so intense, that I doubt its capacity of further development.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 33.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 14 *Août,* 1876.

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence, pour son information, copie d'une dépêche télégraphique que je viens de recevoir de Constantinople relativement à l'amnistie accordée à tous les individus compromis dans le mouvement Bulgare et dont le procès n'a pas encore été terminé, à l'exception de ceux déjà condamnés ou qui, prévenus d'avoir été les chefs et les organisateurs du mouvement, sont soumis actuellement à des interrogatoires, le jugement de ces derniers devant être dévolu aux tribunaux ordinaires.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *Imperial Ottoman Embassy, London, August* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, to your Excellency, for your information, copy of a telegraphic despatch, which I have just received from Constantinople, relative to the amnesty granted to all the persons compromised in the Bulgarian movement, on whom sentence has not yet been passed, except those already condemned, or those who, charged with having been the chiefs and organisers of the movement, are at this moment being examined; the trial of these latter will devolve upon the ordinary Tribunals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 33.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 13 *Août,* 1876.

SA Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre auguste Maître, mû par ses sentiments de sollicitude paternelle et de haute clémence, a daigné accorder amnistie pleine et entière à tous les individus qui avaient été compromis dans le mouvement Bulgare et dont le procès n'a pas été terminé. Sont exceptés de cette faveur Impériale ceux qui sont déjà condamnés et ceux qui, prévenus d'avoir été les chefs et les organisateurs du mouvement, sont soumis à des interrogatoires. Tous les autres détenus seront mis immédiatement en liberté sous caution valable. Toutes poursuites à raison des événements en question cesseront; personne ne sera plus recherché ni arrêté de ce chef; en même temps les juridictions exceptionnelles chargées d'instruire ces procès seront supprimées, et les jugements concernant les individus qui rentrent dans la catégorie des exceptions plus haut citées seront renvoyés devant les tribunaux ordinaires.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 13, 1876.

HIS Imperial Majesty the Sultan our august Master, moved by sentiments of paternal solicitude and high clemency, has deigned to grant a full and complete amnesty to all the persons implicated in the Bulgarian movement, whose trials are not yet terminated.

Those already condemned are excepted from this Imperial favour, as well as those who, charged with having been the leaders and organisers of the movement, are undergoing examination. All the other prisoners will be immediately set at liberty on

substantial bail. All prosecutions with reference to the events in question will cease no one will be further sought for or arrested on this head; at the same time the exceptional courts charged with dealing with these cases will be suppressed, and the sentences in the cases of those who come into the category of the exceptions above-mentioned will be brought before the ordinary Tribunals.

No. 34.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 14, 1876.

IT has been stated here, and may be reported in England, that the Porte has ordered the destruction not only of the fortifications of Zaitchar, but also of the whole town. I have made inquiries, and am assured that this is not correct, orders having been given to protect the town from injury, and to facilitate the return of the inhabitants, although the fortifications are to be destroyed.

No. 35.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August* 15, 1876.

I HAVE informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the telegram sent by your Lordship to Belgrade.

His Excellency said that, in answer to representations made by Italian Agent at Belgrade, he had sent a telegram to him similar in purport to that of your Lordship.

No. 36.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 15, 1876.

I HAVE communicated the substance of your telegram of yesterday to Baron Hofmann, who will acquaint Count Andrassy with it. He said that he believed that the other Powers take the same view of the question as Her Majesty's Government.

No. 37.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 7, 1876.

THE inclosed official announcement, forbidding public discussion of the future system of Government, has given rise to considerable dissatisfaction, as being an infraction of the liberty of speech which was supposed to be inaugurated by the new reign.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Official Communication to the Newspapers.

Constantinople, le 2 Août, 1876.

LES journaux Turcs de ce matin publient une communication officielle dont voici le résumé:—

"Depuis quelques jours, diverses discussions ont lieu dans le public au sujet du système gouvernemental de l'Empire.

"Sa Majesté le Sultan dans son Hatt Impérial a invité ses Ministres à délibérer entr'eux sur les principes et le mode de Gouvernement à établir sur une base sérieuse et solide, et à soumettre à Sa Majesté le résultat de leurs délibérations.

"Cette réforme administrative étant de la plus haute importance et devant être soumise à un examen approfondi, au point de vue des prescriptions de la loi du Cher'i et des mœurs, des habitudes et des aptitudes de la population, exige de longues études; d'autre part, les événements actuels, étant de nature à préoccuper le Gouvernement avant toute autre chose, il a été décidé de remettre l'exécution de la réforme à l'époque où toutes ces difficultés auront été écartées.

"Malgré cela et pendant que nos soldats sont aux prises avec l'ennemi, il se trouve des personnes qui, sans prendre en considération l'état des choses actuel, se livrent à des discussions inconsidérées et de nature à porter le trouble dans les esprits et à exciter les passions du public, au préjudice des opérations militaires et au grand contentement des malveillants.

"Attendu qu'aucun patriote ayant un grain de foi et de zèle ne peut donner son approbation à cela, le Gouvernement défend rigoureusement les discussions de ce genre.

"Par conséquent, le Ministre de la Police a reçu l'ordre de faire arrêter par des agents secrets tous ceux qui se permettront de discuter sur cette question en public ou en conciliabules. Ces individus seront considérés comme traitres à la patrie et punis en conséquence.

"Le Bureau de la Presse a reçu aussi des instructions spéciales, afin que les journaux ne s'occupent pas de ces questions.

"Tous ceux donc qui aiment leur religion, leur Etat, leur nation, et leur patrie, sont invités à s'abstenir désormais de tout ce qui est contraire à cette recommandation."

(Translation.)

Constantinople, August 2, 1876.

THE Turkish papers of this morning publish an official communication, of which the following is the substance:—

"For some days past the system of Government of the Empire has formed the topic of public discussion.

"His Majesty the Sultan, in his Imperial Hatt, has invited his Ministers to deliberate among themselves as to the establishment on a serious basis of the principles and system of the Government, and to submit to His Majesty the result of their deliberations.

"As this administrative reform is of the highest importance, and is to be submitted to a searching examination, as regards the prescriptions laid down by the law of the Cheri, the manners, habits, and capacities of the population, it requires to be well studied; on the other hand, as existing events are of a kind to occupy the attention of the Government to the exclusion of everything else, it has been decided to defer the execution of the reforms to the time when all these difficulties shall have been removed.

"Notwithstanding this, and whilst our soldiers are actually engaged with the enemy, there are some who, without taking into consideration the existing state of things, abandon themselves to inconsiderate discussions of a nature to trouble the minds and excite the passions of the public, to the prejudice of the military operations, and to the great satisfaction of the malevolent.

"Seeing that no patriot, with a grain of religion or zeal, can approve of this, the Government prohibits strictly discussions of this kind.

"Consequently the Minister of Police has received orders to arrest by his secret agents all those who shall discuss this question in public or in private. Such persons will be considered as traitors to their country, and will be punished accordingly.

"The newspaper offices have also received special instructions to the effect that the papers are to avoid these subjects.

"All, therefore, who love their religion, their State, their nation, and their country, are requested to abstain henceforth from all that is in conflict with this recommendation."

No. 38.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 16.)

My Lord, *Paris, August* 15, 1876.

I HAD last night the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram dated yesterday, in which you authorized me to communicate to the French Government an instruction which you had sent to Belgrade.

The Duc Decazes left Paris last evening for the Gironde for some days I have, however, written to him to say that your Lordship desires me to let him know that you have informed Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, by telegraph, that if mediation be not asked for, Her Majesty's Government will not propose it, but that he may suggest to Prince Milan that an application from His Highness to the Powers for their good offices would be favourably received by England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 39.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 9, 1876.

I HAVE received no further official Report from Mr. Baring, whom I presume to be waiting to condense his observations into a general statement of his Mission, when he has time and opportunity for doing so, which was hardly possible while making fatiguing journeys, without always finding a lodging at the end of them. I transmit, however, to your Lordship copies of two hurried private letters.

Upon receiving that of the 1st instant I immediately had a copy made of it, and sent it in the private note, likewise inclosed in copy, to Safvet Pasha, with whom I had on Monday a long conversation upon its contents.

He had had it and its inclosure put into Turkish, and read them to the Council of Ministers, upon whom they produced a profound impression.

Kiani Pasha, the Commissioner, lately sent to Philippopoli to inquire into the excesses in that neighbourhood, who had just returned, was called upon to state what he had ascertained of the occurrences at Batak, and the late Kaïmakam of that place, who is also here, was likewise desired to give his explanations.

Their statements were very similar, and were to the effect that the inhabitants of the village had risen, killed the Turks in it, and concerted an attack on the Turkish villages in the neighbourhood.

The inhabitants of these last had joined together, and, with the assistance of some Bashi-Bazouks, had attacked Batak, where some defences were thrown up, and where the people refused to lay down their arms.

Mr. Baring's estimate of the original numbers of the inhabitants, and consequently of that which had disappeared, was declared to be greatly in excess of the reality, both as regards the number of houses and of persons to be counted for each house, which would be more truly taken at six, instead of at ten. There will be no difficulty in ascertaining the truth upon that point from the official registers upon which the taxes are collected.

A very large proportion of those still missing at the village, and especially the women and children, were stated to be collected at a place, of which I do not retain the name, and would be restored in safety.

I said that even if everything that was advanced differing from the accounts given to Mr. Baring by the people was accepted as correct, his report of what he had seen with his own eyes made it certain that a massacre had taken place at Batak, such as would be learnt with feelings of general horror and indignation.

Unresisting women and children had evidently been slaughtered, and if many of those missing were in safety, and had not, as alleged, been sold or abducted, it was time that they should at once be produced and restored to such members of their families as still existed.

It was asserted by the Porte that the excesses had been committed by the Mussulman populations of the neighbourhood whom the Government had no more power to restrain in an internecine war than they had over the insurgents who were the first to begin them; but what, I asked, must be thought of the Government which while continuing to punish all accused of complicity in the insurrection took no pains whatever to punish those on the other side who had been guilty of acts which were a disgrace to any country, and had even rewarded some who were accused of being the chief actors in them.

Safvet Pasha replied that the Porte may have been misled with regard to individuals represented to it as having rendered important services in suppressing a formidable insurrection; but a strict investigation into their conduct had already been ordered.

He complained bitterly, and certainly not without justice, that while the European newspapers systematically exaggerated every excess on the part of the Turks, they studiously suppressed all mention of those which had been committed by the insurgents

who commenced by massacring the Mahomedans where they were in a minority, and who exercised upon their women and children the very same cruelties as were denounced with such energy when the retaliation had been provoked.

In conclusion, Safvet Pasha begged me to delay forwarding Mr. Baring's letter to your Lordship till it could be accompanied by the counter-statements of the Porte.

I said that I must send the letter by to-morrow's post, but that I would gladly accompany it with any statement he wished me to send, and the more complete the refutation of the charges proved the better I should be pleased.

I finally strongly urged that the prisoners still awaiting their trial for complicity in the insurrection should be released and an amnesty proclaimed, and his Excellency promised to submit the suggestion to the Grand Vizier and to recommend its adoption.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S.—I have received a message from the Grand Vizier stating that the above suggestion would be acted upon, except as regards the instigators and ringleaders in the insurrection. All other prisoners will be released, and no further arrests made.

H. E.

Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Dear Sir Henry, *Tatar-Bazardjik, August* 1, 1876.

I AM sorry to say I have been getting on slowly, rather. Last Sunday I was so unwell, that I was obliged to stay here all day. Yesterday I visited Batak, and got back here—a long day, from 5.30 A.M. to 9.30 P.M. Close home Guarracino and I were upset into a wet ditch out of our carriage, the consequence being that we are delayed here half the day till our things are dry. However, I hope this afternoon to get to Vetven, and to-morrow by a forced march to Otloukeui. Dupuis is not going to Vetven with me, but direct to Otloukeui. He did not get to Batak yesterday, and he may congratulate himself upon being spared the most awful sight that could present itself to the eyes of man. The village consisted of 800 houses, and about 8,000 inhabitants. Of these at least 6,000 have been massacred; about 250 are now in the village, something under 1,000 are at Tashtra and elsewhere, and there are a number of girls and young married women who have been carried off to the neighbouring Turkish villages; say 2,000 are left—where are the rest? The first thing I saw was some twenty or thirty dogs devouring human bodies, and in the place they had been feasting in I counted sixty-two skulls in about 20 yards. Many of these had evidently been severed from their trunks by hatchets or yataghans, and it is said that the Bashi-Bazouks led these wretched people to this spot and beheaded them. The whole of the main street was a mass of human remains, but the most fearful spectacle was the church and its *enceinte*. Here the corpses lay so thick that one could hardly avoid treading on them, and the stench was so fearful, that any examination was next to impossible. Inside the church was one mass of charred bones. The women were sitting on the ruins of their houses wailing and singing the most melancholy sort of dirge, which could be heard some way from the village. Altogether, I can hardly describe the horror of the scene.

The perpetrators of it were Achmet Agha of Dospat, and Mahmoud Agha. The former came to the village, demanded the people's arms, which were given, and then their money, which was given. He then attacked them. At first they spared no one, but subsequently they thought it better to carry off the young women, and the fact is patent to anyone who goes to the village that there is not a young woman in it now. I did not see any skulls of children, though many must have perished in the church itself, into which it was impossible to penetrate.

The perpetrator of this horrid crime, Achmet Agha, has received the 4th class of the Medjidie, but I really believe that the Government do not know what took place. The village lies in the mountains away from the main road, and even here the authorities were not aware of the extent of the butchery. It will be a great disgrace if the Porte lets this affair pass unnoticed. The people of Batak may have had an intention of rising, and they had, in fact, erected some slight fortifications, but whatever they did cannot justify Achmet Agha's perjury and cruelty.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 39.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Dear Sir Henry, *Philippopoli, August* 4, 1876.

WE arrived an hour ago from a tour which began at Bazarjik. In my last I gave you some account of the horrible affair at Batak. On Tuesday we went to Vetven, a place on the Sofia road, which was partly burnt by Hassan Pasha, the inhabitants having cut the telegraph wires and committed other acts of insurrection. On Wednesday we rode to Otloukeui, passing through several burnt villages, three being Mussulman ones burnt by the Bulgarians. At Otloukeui, 500 houses have been burnt out of about 2,000, both churches burnt, and nearly 800 of the inhabitants and about 700 strangers killed, and the place pillaged; a considerable number of women and children were among the killed, and two poor little things were brought to me, one shot through the foot and the other through the thigh. The troops and Bashi-Bazouks were under the command of Hafouz Pasha. The place has been entirely pillaged, and we could hardly get beds to lie on. The inhabitants of this village were no doubt the leaders and beginners of the revolt; they raised fortifications, killed some Turks, including the Mudir, and committed other acts of revolt; but the wholesale pillage cannot be justified there or elsewhere. On Thursday we had a very long day, first to Avrat Alan (which, strange to say, is not burnt, but completely pillaged of everything), and to the much-talked-of Yenikeui. Here the people killed about thirty Turks, and left for the hills with the inhabitants of the other villages; the Bashi-Bazouks came and burnt it, and a few days later the inhabitants returned, but were attacked by the Turks, and sixty killed.

The worst part of this story is, that their neighbours of Aivanly will not let them alone; they take the wood and stone which they have collected to rebuild their houses, and otherwise persecute them. I cannot start for Yamboli till Monday, as there is only a train three times a-week, and I fear I cannot be back in Constantinople till the end of the week. I am most anxious to finish, as it is not pleasant to hear every day and all day tales of misery and suffering. Everywhere I hear the same story: the people were told they must rise, as the Turks would otherwise kill them, and the Russian troops were crossing the Balkans. We had a most fatiguing journey last night; we slept in a hut made of boughs at Yenikeui, our bed being hay; our fare has been principally bread and eggs. Crossing the plains to-day, the heat was intense, and I confess to being somewhat done-up.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 3 in No 39.

Sir H. Elliot to Safvet Pasha.

Excellence, *Therapia, le 5 Août,* 1876.

JE vous envoie l'extrait d'une lettre de Mr. Baring de Tatar-Bazardjik, qui vous causera, je n'en doute, une impression aussi profondément douloureuse qu'elle a produite sur moi.

Dans les premiers jours Mr. Baring a constaté des exaggérations dans les rapports publiés par les journaux Anglais, mais maintenant il donne la description d'une visite à la scène d'atrocités qui ont dépassé tout ce que l'on avait prétendu.

Que dira-t-on dans tout le monde civilisé quand c'est connu que les auteurs de toutes ces horreurs non seulement n'ont pas été punis, mais qu'ils ont été recompensés et décorés par le Gouvernement Impérial?

La lettre est une lettre particulière, mais je vous l'envoie sans attendre le rapport officiel pour que vous ne perdiez pas un jour à avoir connaissance des faits qui sans doute vous ont été cachés, et pour vous engager à prendre les mesures nécessaires contre les scélérats déjà trop longtemps impunis. Leurs biens devraient être confisqués au profit des malheureux villageois, et surtout les jeunes femmes doivent être retrouvées. Enfin je suis convaincu qu'il suffit de vous faire connaître les détails que vous trouverez dans la lettre de Mr. Baring pour assurer l'action prompte et énergique de la Sublime Porte.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) HENRY ELLIOT.

(Translation.)

Excellence, *Therapia, August* 5, 1876.

I SEND you an extract of a letter from Mr. Baring dated Tatar-Bazardjik, which will, I doubt not, produce as painful an impression on you as it has done on me.

At first, Mr. Baring stated that there were exaggerations in the reports published by the English papers, but now he gives the details of a visit to the scene of atrocities, which have exceeded all that have been described.

What will be said throughout the whole civilized world when it is known that the authors of all these horrors have not only not been punished, but that they have been rewarded and decorated by the Imperial Government?

The letter is a private one, but I send it you without waiting for the official report, that you may not lose a day in becoming acquainted with facts, which have, no doubt, been concealed from you, and I urge you to take the necessary measures against the wretches who have remained already too long unpunished. Their property should be confiscated for the benefit of the unhappy peasants, and, before all, the young women should be found and brought back. However, I am convinced that it is enough that you should be acquainted with the details, which you will find in Mr. Baring's letter, to ensure prompt and energetic action on the part of the Sublime Porte.

Receive, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 40.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 17.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, August* 9, 1876.

YOUR Lordship will allow me to declare emphatically that there is nothing either in Mr. Baring's disposition or history to justify the supposition that he will report otherwise than with strict impartiality.

I know enough of him to be able to guarantee that any acts of cruelty will inspire him with the same feelings of indignation as they must excite in the mind of every Englishman.

He was in every respect well qualified for his task. He speaks Greek fluently, and having during the time he has been here worked hard at Turkish, he has acquired a knowledge of the language sufficient to enable him to converse with villagers, but as he could not talk with Pashas and officials, he asked me to allow him to take with him, as Turkish Interpreter, his father-in-law, Mr. Frederick Guarracino, who has been above thirty years in Her Majesty's Consular service without anything being alleged against his character, and I saw no reason to refuse to permit him to do so, especially as it would not have been easy to find another suitable person at a moment's notice.

Much, however, has been made of this fact, and even General Ignatiew allowed himself to allude to it as an indication that it was not intended that the inquiry should be a real one, and spoke of Mr. Guarracino's hostility to himself. I explained that Mr. Guarracino was Mr. Baring's interpreter, but nothing more, and I said that there was no doubt of Mr. Baring's reporting what he saw and heard with perfect impartiality.

No. 41.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 17.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, August* 9, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday's date, respecting the two Herzegovinians who were recently put to death by the Turks in this neighbourhood, I have been told to-day that the body of the man who was ransomed was handed over to the peasant who went to fetch it, hacked to pieces; and that the Turks admit that they

tortured him for two days, by tearing out his finger-nails—an atrocity which, it is said, is proved by the condition of the corpse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 42.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the language held by your Excellency to the Grand Vizier, as reported in your despatch of the 25th ultimo, on the subject of the discontent that was being produced by the delay in carrying out the organic reforms, the necessity of which had been recognized by the Grand Council.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 43.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 18.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the passage of Russian officers through these Principalities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Mr. St. John to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bucharest, August* 8, 1876.

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram, I have the honour to report that Russian officers and non-commissioned officers, supplied with passports, are crossing Wallachia for the seat of war, at the rate of thirty or forty a-day.

I have been assured that none of them, however, have been received by the Prince, who has now left Bucharest for the mountains, where he usually spends the summer.

Mr. Vice-Consul Brown at Braila informs me that, during the last eight or ten days, several first-class passengers from Russia have passed on by train to Bucharest—these are said to be officers of note on their way to the seat of war—and that on the 6th instant two waggons, containing about fifty men, supposed to have belonged to the Cossack regiment that mutinied at Kieff a short time ago, passed in the same direction, accompanied by a priest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 44.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 18.)

(Extract.) *Rome, August* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I saw M. Melegari this morning, and I found his Excellency much occupied in mind by the revelations recently made of the atrocities which had taken place in Bulgaria.

When I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 4th instant, I reported that his Excellency considered that the complete defeat of one or the other of the parties to the war was desirable before mediation should be attempted. To-day his Excellency said that

the Powers could not now interfere too soon; that it was horrible to contemplate the idea of Europe having held its hand while such barbarities had been committed, and that public opinion everywhere was crying loudly to Christian Governments to discharge their duty and prevent such horrors being repeated.

He said that Europe had allowed this to happen to save itself from war, that that was an egotistical policy, and that he was shocked to think of the blood which might have been saved if the Powers had not been supine, and content to hope that the reports which reached them were not true. He knew that the Government of which he formed part would be called most seriously to account by the Italian Parliament when it met, and though the Italian Government could but wait upon the action of the other Powers, he desired that that action might now be no longer delayed. He added that public feeling in Italy had been greatly in favour of the insurgent provinces, and of the Christian States at war, and that had it not been for the restraining influence of Government, a large army of Italian volunteers would long ere this have swelled the ranks of the enemies of the Sultan.

His Excellency doubtless bore in mind the answer which he had made to an interpellation in the Chamber, reported in my despatch of the 12th ultimo, on which occasion he stated that Italy was served by excellent Consuls in Turkey, but that he had not received from them any reports of Mussulman atrocities. He informed me to-day that there had been, in fact, no Italian Consuls in the districts where these massacres had taken place, but that he had now sent one to Sofia.

No. 45.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 18, 1876.

YOUR Excellency should lose no opportunity of warning the Porte of the danger of hostile intervention on the part of some of the Powers, should the war be protracted; and that it is of grave importance that an early pacification should be arranged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 46.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 19.)

My Lord, *Scutari, August* 7, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed this day by me to Sir Henry Elliot.

I report to his Excellency the advance of the Montenegrins on Turkish territory near the district of Gruda, and the state of the forces at Podgoritza.

I also inform his Excellency that I have ascertained that there is no truth in the reports spread by the Turkish authorities that the Montenegrins have ill-treated the wounded and prisoners who have recently fallen into their hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, August* 7, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Montenegrin force in the district of Piperi has made an advance on Turkish territory, and occupied the plateaux forming the Krajina of the Koutchi, and which dominate the district of Gruda. On these plateaux are situated the villages of the Triepsci, Kocia, and Orahovo clans, who have now joined the Montenegrins. The Triepsci and Kocia are Roman Catholic Albanians,

* Substance telegraphed.

and their union with the Montenegrins can only be looked upon as being one more of momentary expediency than of inclination.

Three battalions of regulars have been despatched from Podgoritza to defend the district of Gruda. The position taken by the Montenegrins is most commanding, and they will probably not make a further advance, as they can now efficaciously protect the Koutchi Drekalovitch, who passed over to them as soon as war was declared. The contingents of irregulars from the Castrati, Hotti, and Chinenti have, however, all been sent back from Podgoritza into their own districts, to defend them from the possible raids of the enemy.

The Turkish authorities have been spreading reports of the atrocites committed by the Montenegrins on the wounded and prisoners that have fallen into their hands, but, after careful investigation, I have ascertained that there is no foundation for them, and that, on the contrary, several wounded Turkish soldiers who were recently made prisoners, after having received medical aid and food, have been sent back to Podgoritza. The belief is that the Turkish Commanders are anxious that their soldiers should not become aware of the humane conduct now observed by the Montenegrins, lest, at critical moments, their resistance against the enemy should become less obstinate than heretofore.

The results of the encounters of the 24th and 28th ultimo have had a demoralizing effect on the Turkish forces, and attempts are being made to account for their discomfiture by casting doubts on the courage of their commanders, and on the loyalty of the Albanian Christian contingents, whilst the Zeibeks and volunteers from other parts of Turkey are showing a greater inclination to quarrel and fight amongst themselves than to meet the enemy.

Mahmoud Hamdi Pasha (General Frenva), who has recently arrived from Constantinople, and who is the *de facto* Commander-in-Chief, although Achmed Hamdi Pasha has been allowed to retain his outward appearance of supreme authority, is doing all in his power to restore confidence and discipline. His demand for reinforcements has been promptly met by the Porte, as it has ordered forty-five battalions to North Albanian, of which several have already arrived and others are daily expected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 47.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 19.)

My Lord, *Scutari, August* 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting to his Excellency the pillage of the Roman Catholic church at San Nicolo by regular soldiers recently arrived from Beyrout, and some further acts of fanaticism committed by the Zeibek Bashi-Bazouks.

I have also drawn his Excellency's attention to the good understanding that exists in contradistinction between the Moslems and Roman Catholics of North Albania.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, August* 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Roman Catholic Priest of San Nicolo, a village at the mouth of the River Boyara, came to Scutari this morning to complain to the authorities that his church was yesterday forcibly entered and pillaged by some soldiers from four battalions from Beyrout, that had been landed the previous evening. The priest had been unable to obtain effectual protection from the officer in command of the troops, although he solicited it the moment the soldiery began to break

the windows of the church and to show their intention of entering it. The Acting Governor here has promised to endeavour to obtain the punishment of the offenders.

The Zeibek Bashi-Bazouks who committed the sacrilege on the Church at Antivari, reported in my despatch of the 31st ultimo, broke the crosses of some chapels and of the orthodox burial-ground when they passed through the outskirts of Scutari on their way to Podgoritza.

It is to be regretted that Mahommedans coming from other parts of Turkey are thus endangering the good understanding that exists between the Moslems and Roman Catholics of Albania. A remarkable illustration of this union was to be noticed here on the 6th instant, when a greatly venerated Sheikh, of Cruja, named Hussein Baba, arrived with a body of about 1,000 volunteers, raised through his own efforts and influence. Before the arrival of the Sheikh in Scutari, considerable fear was expressed by timid Christians at the approaching inroad of supposed fanatics, but the surprise was great to find among them when they came a band of Christians from Corbin, bearing a scarlet flag with a cross and a crescent on it, and marching on a perfect equality with the Mahommedans.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 48.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 19.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 19, 1876, 9·25 P.M.

I AM assured that Prince Milan intends acting on the suggestion, and is about to apply for the good offices of the Powers.

I have this from His Highness himself.

No. 49.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, August* 20, 1876, 10 A.M.

I AM assured by Acting British Vice-Consul Cavalla that the reports about sale of Christian boys and girls in Province of Drama and district of Nevrocop are false.

No. 50.

Count Andrassy to Count Zichy.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, August 21.)

M. le Comte, *Vienne, le 7 Août*, 1876.

MA dépêche du 31 Juillet annonçait à votre Excellence que je ne tarderais pas à fournir la preuve que, dans la question de la fermeture du port de Klek, nous pouvions nous appuyer sur le droit le plus incontestable. L'exposé qui va suivre est destiné à établir cette thèse d'une manière péremptoire.

Si l'on veut juger de la mesure des droits que l'Autriche-Hongrie ou la Turquie peuvent revendiquer dans le port de Klek, il convient de se reporter aux stipulations des actes internationaux qui ont réglé la délimitation des localités dont il s'agit.

Les documents les plus anciens à consulter à ce sujet sont les instruments de démarcation dressés à la suite des Traités de Paix de Carlowitz et de Passarowitz.

Il résulte clairement de ces documents :—

1. Que la Turquie s'est réservé la souveraineté de la bande de territoire qui s'étend entre la ligne Karstaz-Surdup Mali et l'Etat de Raguse, ainsi que de la presqu'île de Klek dont la rive extérieure forme la ligne frontière des deux Etats jusqu'au territoire de Raguse;

2. Qu'au contraire tout le pays situé en deça de la ligne sus-mentionnée, y compris le fort de Klek et la totalité du port de ce nom, c'est-à-dire la baie qui s'ouvre entre Surdup Mali et la presqu'île de Klek, étaient adjugés à la République de Vénise.

Cette stipulation se conçoit d'autant mieux que la localité même portant le nom de Klek était dévolue aux Vénitiens, qu'elle était fortifiée à cette époque et qu'il semblait

* Repeated to Embassies.

tout-à-fait régulier que la Puissance possédant le fort fût également maîtresse des eaux que ce fort commandait. Aussi il ne s'éleva pas le plus léger doute sur le sens de la clause en question.

Toute la correspondance échangée entre le Commissaire Vénitien et le Sénat atteste la grande importance que la République attachait à la conservation de "Klek et de son port," et l'extrême satisfaction qu'elle éprouvait d'avoir obtenu ce résultat, en dépit de l'opposition acharnée des Ragusais qui, dans l'intérêt de leur propre sécurité, eussent préféré que le fort de Klek avec son port fussent attribués à la Turquie.

La Paix de Passarowitz (1718) et le Traité de Délimitation (du 6 Octobre, 1721) qui la suivit rétablirent le tracé de la frontière sur ce point, tel qu'il avait été établi à la suite de la Paix de Carlowitz et tel qu'il existe aujourd'hui.

A partir de cette époque, les eaux de Klek restèrent une mer fermée et l'on sait avec quelle vigilance jalouse les Vénitiens s'appliquaient à écarter toute concurrence étrangère dans l'Adriatique. Aussi les anciennes archives de Vénise ne signalent pas un seul cas où des navires Ottomans ou autres auraient essayé de pénétrer soit dans le port de Klek, soit dans les parages qui séparent les deux presqu'îles de Klek et de Sabbioncello.

Rien n'indique non plus qu'après la prise de possession de la Dalmatie par l'Autriche, en vertu du Traité de Campoformio, la Turquie eût prétendu exercer un droit de navigation dans les eaux dont il s'agit. Durant toute cette longue période, la Porte Ottomane a donc reconnu, par le fait, le droit exclusif de propriété des Vénitiens et de leurs successeurs à l'égard du port de Klek, ainsi que l'interdiction absolue dont la navigation était frappée dans ce port.

Après la Paix de Presbourg (1805) qui incorpora l'ancienne Dalmatie Vénitienne au Royaume d'Italie, une tentative quelconque de troubler l'état de possession légale dans ces parages eût pu d'autant moins se produire que les armées Françaises s'étaient, peu après, emparées aussi des possessions de la République de Raguse, en y adjoignant les territoires adjacents de Klek et de Sutorina. Aussitôt rentré en possession de la Dalmatie en 1814, l'Empereur François, par une initiative généreuse, s'empressa de restituer ces deux enclaves à la Porte Ottomane, bien qu'il eût été libre de les garder, ayant recueilli l'héritage de la France dans ces contrées. L'Autriche accomplit alors ce qu'elle croyait être un acte de justice, sans se laisser arrêter par des considérations de tout genre qui le lui déconseillaient.

En effet, la continuité de ses possessions de terre ferme en Dalmatie se trouvant coupée sur deux points par l'interposition de ces bandes de territoire étranger, de graves désavantages devaient en résulter pour elle au point de vue de l'administration civile et militaire, des finances, de la police, de la santé publique.

Si la règle du *mare clausum* n'avait pas existé, ces désavantages eussent, on peut le dire, atteint des proportions telles qu'un pareil état de choses eût été à peine supportable. Imagine-t-on deux ports libres s'étalant au beau milieu de notre littoral Dalmate? Evidemment une situatien pareille nous imposerait la nécessité de garnir nos frontières d'un quadruple cordon permanent, ne fût-ce que pour garantir de la contrebande les monopoles de l'Etat et les Douanes. Mais même avec la navigation interdite, la position géographique des deux enclaves, qui isolent le cercle de Cattaro de celui de Raguse et ce dernier du reste de la Dalmatie, entraînait encore assez d'inconvénients, soit pour le Gouvernement, soit pour les habitants riverains.

Malgré ces inconvénients, le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal a fait revivre en 1814 l'état territorial antérieur à l'occupation Française, mais il n'a entendu le rétablir que dans les conditions mêmes des Traités qui l'avaient créé. Certes, on ne pouvait lui demander d'aggraver encore la situation que lui faisait une configuration anormale. Il s'est dès lors maintenu strictement sur la ligne de son droit incontestable.

Ce droit était double.

Dans les enclaves même, il existait une route militaire construite par le Gouvernement Français pour relier la Dalmatie continentale dans toute sa longueur et qui, sur son parcours à Klek et dans la Suttorina, devait désormais traverser le territoire Turc. Cette route a été entretenue depuis aux frais du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal et par les soins des ses ingénieurs, et la Sublime Porte ne lui a jamais contesté le droit d'y faire circuler ses troupes et ses douaniers. Nous n'avons jamais cessé d'envisager ce droit comme constituant l'un des éléments du *statu quo* à maintenir invariablement dans les deux enclaves.

Du côté de la mer, il va de soi que la rétrocession de Klek et de Suttorina, faite à la Turquie par l'Autriche en 1814, à titre de don gratuit, n'a pu s'entendre que dans les limites qu'avaient fixées les anciens Traités à la souveraineté de la Porte, c'est-à-dire, en ce qui concerne Klek, à l'exclusion des eaux qui baignent ce territoire. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté n'a jamais admis une interprétation contraire et il a toujours veillé à ce que

ces eaux conservent le caractère de *mare clausum* qui leur a appartenu de temps immémorial.

Aussi, les premières velléités qui se produisirent d'enfreindre l'interdiction des eaux de Klek et de Suttorina rencontrèrent-elles une opposition aussi énergique qu'efficace.

Désireux de ne laisser planer aucun doute sur le maintien d'un régime qu'il envisage à juste titre comme faisant partie intégrante de son état de possession en Dalmatie, le Gouvernement de l'Empereur et Roi prit occasion des infractions isolées qui avaient eu lieu pour provoquer de la part de la Sublime Porte une déclaration solennelle à ce sujet. Tel fut l'un des objets de la mission que le Lieutenant-Général Comte de Linange eut à remplir à Constantinople en 1853.

Le résultat que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté avait en vue fut pleinement atteint. Dans une note officielle adressée à l'Envoyé Extraordinaire de Sa Majesté par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, Fuad Pacha, le 5 Dchemazi-ul-evel 1269 (14 Février, 1853), il est dit expressément que, "dans l'espoir qu'un arrangement à l'amiable interviendra relativement à la question des enclaves de Klek et de Suttorina, à la suite des propositions à faire dans ce but par le Gouvernement Impérial de Turquie, la Sublime Porte s'engage à ne rien entreprendre qui, en raison de la divergence de vues existant à ce sujet entre les deux parties, pût donner lieu à une contestation."

C'est sur ce terrain que, depuis 1853, les deux Gouvernements se sont maintenus.

Ainsi, en 1858, la Sublime Porte, désirant expédier par la voie de Klek un convoi de troupes et de munitions pour réprimer des désordres survenus en Herzégovine, adressa à l'Internonce de Sa Majesté une note par laquelle elle demanda pour ce convoi la permission de débarquer. Fuad Pacha constatait en termes explicites, dans cette note, que la Porte "n'avait aucune intention de porter atteinte au *statu quo*, tel qu'il a été confirmé par l'échange des notes entre le Gouvernement Ottoman et le Comte de Linange," et déclarait "que le cas présent ne doit aucunement établir un précédent de sa part pour l'avenir et que, dans son intention, le dit principe du *statu quo*, loin d'être invalidé par l'exception qu'elle demande par motif de l'urgence des circonstances et en vue du bien qui en résultera pour les deux pays, ne saurait que recevoir par la présente déclaration une confirmation nouvelle."

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan a donc formellement reconnu que l'engagement pris vis-à-vis du Comte de Linange en 1853 n'avait fait que confirmer un droit ancien et que l'autorisation sollicitée ne pouvait être considérée que comme une concession exceptionnelle.

En 1861, lors de l'insurrection que la Sublime Porte avait à combattre en Herzégovine, elle crut encore de son intérêt de faire passer par Klek les transports de troupes, de munitions et de provisions qu'elle dirigeait sur cette province. A sa demande, accompagnée d'assurances analogues à celles qui avaient été données en 1858, notre auguste maître consentit à lui accorder à cet effet l'usage provisoire du port de Klek pour trois mois. Ce délai expiré, l'autorisation fut renouvelée pour un autre trimestre.

Depuis, la Sublime Porte nous a souvent adressé des demandes de laisser entrer dans le port de Klek des navires chargés de renforts ou d'approvisionnements à destination de son armée en Herzégovine. Nous n'avons jamais accueilli ces demandes sans avoir reçu de la part du Gouvernement Ottoman une déclaration préalable et écrite, portant que la concession obtenue ne pourrait avoir pour effet d'altérer en quoi que ce soit le *statu quo* convenu en 1853.

Ou toutes ces déclarations tant de fois réitérées ne voulaient rien dire, ou elles signifiaient que la clôture du port de Klek, cette règle maintenue sans déviation pendant des siècles, a été reconnue par la Porte elle-même.

L'exposé que votre Excellence vient de lire lui fera connaître que le Gouvernement du Sultan se livre à une erreur profonde lorsque, dans la note qu'il ma fait remettre par son Ambassadeur, il représente la demarche exigée chaque fois de la Sublime Porte dans les cas dont il s'agit, comme un simple avis préalable dont l'usage se serait introduit pour éviter des difficultés locales à l'approche des bâtiments Turcs. Cet acte, je crois l'avoir démontré, avait une portée toute différente; il était la conséquence du droit séculaire de l'Autriche-Hongrie et le corollaire de l'engagement formel contracté par le Gouvernement du Sultan en 1853, de reconnaître de fait l'état légal que les Traités et une pratique constante ont consacré dans les eaux de Klek et de Suttorina.

Que la Porte elle-même l'a compris ainsi, que non seulement elle n'a pas mis en doute, mais qu'elle a expressément reconnu le principe du *mare clausum* dans ces parages, c'est ce qui ressort avec toute évidence d'une note officielle adressée, le 22 Mars, 1871, par Aali Pacha à l'Envoyé de Grèce à Constantinople au sujet de la question de l'admission des navires de guerre Helleniques dans le Golfe d'Arta. Dans cette note, dont communication

fut donnée dans le temps aux trois Puissances protectrices de la Grèce, le Ministre du Sultan s'exprimait dans les termes suivants :—

" En ce qui touche le fond de la question, nous croyons toujours nous conformer aux principes du droit international et à la pratique des autres nations en usant du droit de permettre ou de refuser aux navires de guerre l'entrée dans le Golfe d'Arta.

" ' Aujourd'hui,' dit Martens dans son Traité du Droit des Gens, § 40, ' toutes les nations de l'Europe conviennent que dans la règle les détroits, les golfes, la mer voisine appartiennent au maître du rivage pour le moins jusqu'à la portée du canon qui pourrait être placé sur le rivage.'

" A l'appui de cette doctrine et de cette pratique, je rappelerai à votre Excellence ce qui se passe sur les côtes de Klek et de Suttorina. Les deux rives qui donnent accès sur les côtes Ottomanes appartenant à l'Autriche, les navires Ottomans ne peuvent y pénétrer sans l'autorisation de cette Puissance, et cette défense s'étend même aux navires de commerce."

Il est impossible de tenir un langage plus net, et plus positif, et c'est là un argument des plus concluants à ajouter à ceux que j'ai développés plus haut.

Je me résume.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi ayant hérité des droits Souverains de l'ancienne République de Vénise en Dalmatie, les exerce dans les mêmes conditions que sa devancière, c'est-à-dire, elle maintient aux ports en question le caractère de *mare clausum*, qui leur a appartenu de temps immémorial.

Après l'intervalle de la domination des Français, l'Autriche, en succédant à ces derniers, a renoncé de son plein gré à la propriété des deux enclaves, sans abandonner toutefois la servitude internationale qui les grevait au temps des Vénitiens.

Enfin il n'a jamais été dérogé dans la pratique au droit que nous affirmons, et les exceptions qui y ont été faites, à titre purement grâcieux, loin d'infirmer ce droit, n'ont servi qu'à le corroborer, puisque l'autorisation de débarquer a été subordonnée chaque fois à la reconnaissance expresse du *statu quo*.

Il ne saurait, par conséquent, subsister le moindre doute sur notre droit de traiter les eaux de Klek en mer fermée.

Si la Porte s'était exactement rendu compte de cette situation, nous pensons que loin d'élever des réclamations qui portent absolument à faux, elle eût dû nous exprimer sa reconnaissance pour les nombreuses exceptions que nous avons faites en sa faveur au principe dont il s'agit.

Mais la Sublime Porte étant allée jusqu'à formuler une protestation officielle, contestant l'essence même de notre droit de defendre à ses navires l'accès de Klek, nous sommes obligés à regret de maintenir la déclaration que, par ma dépêche du 31 Juillet, votre Excellence a été chargée de faire aux Ministres Ottomans, à savoir qu'il nous sera impossible désormais, même après que la guerre actuelle sera venue à cesser, d'admettre les convois militaires de la Turquie à Klek, par voie d'exception, ainsi que cela a eu lieu précédemment, à moins que la Porte ne consente à rétracter sa protestation en termes explicites et formels.

Vous êtes autorisé, M. le Comte, à donner communication de la présente dépêche aux Ministres du Sultan et leur en laisser copie s'ils vous en exprimeraient le désir.

Recevez, &c.

(Signé) ANDRASSY.

(Translation.)

M. le Comte, *Vienna, August* 7, 1876.

MY despatch of the 31st of July announced to your Excellency that I should not delay furnishing proof that in the question of the closing of the port of Klek we were able to rest our case on most incontestable right. The statement which follows is intended peremptorily to establish this view.

If it is wished to judge of the extent of the rights which Austria-Hungary or Turkey can lay claim to in the port of Klek, we must refer back to the stipulations of the international acts which have regulated the delimitation of the localities in question.

The most ancient documents to consult on this matter are the instruments of demarcation, drawn up in pursuance of the Treaties of Peace of Carlowitz and Passarowitz.

It results clearly from these documents:—

1. That Turkey has reserved to itself the sovereignty over the tract of territory which extends between the line of Karstaz-Surdup Mali and the State of Ragusa, as

well as of the Peninsular of Klek, the outer shore of which forms the frontier line of the two States as far as the territory of Ragusa;

2. That on the other hand, all the country situated on this side of the above-mentioned line, comprising the fort of Klek, and the whole of the port of that name, that is to say the bay opening out between Surdup Mali and the Peninsular of Klek, were awarded to the Republic of Venice.

This stipulation is better understood when it is considered that the locality bearing this name of Klek had devolved on the Venetians, that it was fortified at that time, and that it seemed quite natural that the Power in possession of the fort should be equally master of the waters it commanded. Accordingly, not the slightest doubt arose as to the sense of the clause in question.

All the correspondence exchanged between the Venetian Commissioner and the Senate testifies to the great importance that the Republic was attaching to the preservation of "Klek and its port," and the extreme satisfaction it experienced at having obtained this result, in spite of the inveterate opposition of the Ragusans, who, in the interest of their own security, would have preferred that the fort of Klek, with its port, should have been given over to Turkey.

The peace of Passarowitz (1718) and the Treaty of Delimitation (of the 6th of October, 1721) following it, re-established the tracing of the frontier, on this point, as it had been after the peace of Carlowitz and as it exists to-day.

From this time the waters of Klek remained a closed sea, and it is to be observed with what jealous vigilance the Venetians endeavoured to repel all foreign rivalry in the Adriatic. Consequently the ancient archives of Venice do not record a single case where Ottoman ships or any others had attempted to penetrate either into the port of Klek or into the roadstead separating the two Peninsulas of Klek and Sabbioncelle.

Neither is there any indication that after Austria had become possessed of Dalmatia, in virtue of the Treaty of Campoeformio, Turkey claimed to exercise a right of navigation in the waters in question. During the whole of this long period, then, the Ottoman Porte recognized, in point of fact, the exclusive right of ownership of the Venetians and of their successors with respect to the port of Klek, as well as the absolute interdiction imposed on navigation in that port.

After the peace of Presbourg (1805), which incorporated the ancient Venetian Dalmatia in the Kingdom of Italy, any attempt to disturb the legal possession over those waters would have been impeded by the fact that the French troops shortly afterwards seized the possessions of the Republic of Ragusa, joining to them the adjacent territories of Klek and Sutorina. Immediately on again entering into possession of Dalmatia in 1814, the Emperor Francis, by a generous initiative, hastened to restore these two "enclaves" to the Ottoman Porte, although he was at liberty to keep them, having succeeded to the inheritance of France in these countries. In this Austria performed what she believed to be an act of justice, without allowing herself to be deterred by any considerations that might have dissuaded her.

In fact the continuity of her territorial possessions in Dalmatia being cut in two points by the interposition of these bands of foreign territory, grave disadvantages might have resulted to her as far as civil and military administration, finance, police, and the public health were concerned.

Had the law of *mare clausum* not existed these disadvantages might, it may be said, have attained such proportions that the state of things would have scarcely been supportable. Can one imagine two free ports existing in the very centre of our Dalmatian coast? Obviously such a situation would force us to place on frontiers a quadruple permanent cordon, were it only to protect against smuggling the State and Customs monopolies. But even with navigation interdicted the geographical position of the two "enclaves," isolating the district of Cattaro from that of Ragusa, and the latter from the rest of Dalmatia, entailed inconveniences enough both to the Government and the inhabitants of the coast.

Notwithstanding these inconveniences, the Imperial and Royal Government revived in 1814 the territorial position anterior to the French occupation; but their intention was to re-establish it under the same conditions as those of the Treaties which had created it. Indeed, they could hardly have been asked to aggravate still more the situation caused by an abnormal configuration. Since then they have kept strictly within the line of incontestable right.

This right was twofold.

In the "enclaves" themselves there existed a military road, constructed by the French Government, for the purpose of uniting continental Dalmatia in all its length, and which, in its course to Klek and in Suttorina, would thenceforth traverse Turkish

territory. This road has since been kept in order at the expense of the Imperial and Royal Government, and by the care of its engineers, and the Sublime Porte has never contested their right to move their troops and Custom-house officers along it. We have never ceased to regard this right as constituting one of the elements of the *statu quo* to be invariably maintained in the two "enclaves."

From the seaside it is self-evident that the retrocession of Klek and Suttorina, made to Turkey by Austria in 1814 as a gratuitous gift, could only be understood as being made within the limits which the ancient Treaties had imposed on the sovereignty of the Porte, that is to say, as concerns Klek, to the exclusion of the waters washing that territory. His Majesty's Government have never admitted a contrary interpretation, and they have always carefully watched over the preservation by those waters of the character of *mare clausum*, which they have borne from time immemorial.

Consequently the first disposition that showed itself of infringing the interdiction of the waters of Klek and Suttorina met with an opposition as energetic as it was efficacious.

Desirous of not allowing any doubt to exist as to the maintenance of a right which they justly considered as forming an integral part of their state of possession in Dalmatia, the Government of the Emperor and King seized the opportunity afforded by some isolated infractions that had taken place, to invite from the Sublime Porte a solemn declaration on the subject. Such was one of the objects of the mission which Lieutenant-Colonel Comte de Linauge had to fulfil at Constantinople in 1853.

The result which His Majesty's Government had in view was fully attained. In an official note, addressed to His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sublime Porte, Fuad Pasha, the 5 Dchernazi-ul-ewel, 1269 (14th February, 1853), it is expressly said that, "in the hope that an amicable arrangement will intervene relative to the question of the 'enclaves' of Klek and Suttorina, in pursuance of the propositions to be made with this view by the Imperial Government of Turkey, the Sublime Porte engages to undertake nothing which, by reason of the divergence of views existing between the two parties on this question, might give rise to a dispute."

This is the ground on which the two Governments have maintained themselves since 1853.

Thus, in 1858, the Sublime Porte, wishing to dispatch by way of Klek a convoy of troops and stores for the purpose of repressing serious disorders in Herzegovina, addressed to His Majesty's internuncio a note, in which it requested, for this convoy, the permission to land. Fuad Pasha stated, in explicit terms in this note, that the Porte "had no intention of interfering with the *statu quo*, confirmed as it had been by the exchange of notes between the Ottoman Government and the Comte de Linauge," and declared "that the present case should, on their part, in no way establish a precedent for the future, and that, in their intention, the said principle of *statu quo*, far from being invalidated by the exception which they were asking on account of the urgency of circumstances, and with a view to the good which would result from it to the two countries, could only receive from the present declaration a fresh confirmation."

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan has, therefore, formally recognized that the engagement contracted with the Comte de Linauge in 1853 had only confirmed an old right, and that the solicited authorization could only be considered as an exceptional concession.

In 1861, at the time of the insurrection which the Sublime Porte had to combat in Herzegovina, it again thought it to be its interest to cause the transports of troops, stores, and provisions, which it was directing upon that province, to pass by Klek. At its request, accompanied by assurances analagous to those which had been given in 1858, our august Master consented to grant to it, for that purpose, the provisional use of the port of Klek for three months. When that term expired the authorization was renewed for three months more.

Since then the Sublime Porte has often addressed to us requests that we would grant admission to the port of Klek for ships carrying reinforcements or supplies destined for its army in Herzegovina. We have never entertained these requests without having received from the Ottoman Government a preliminary and written declaration stating that the concession obtained could not have the effect of altering in any way whatever the *statu quo* of 1853.

Either all these declarations, so often repeated, meant nothing, or they signified that the closing of the port of Klek—a rule maintained without deviation during centuries—had been recognised by the Porte itself.

The statement which your Excellency has read will inform you that the Government of the Sultan indulges in a grave error, when, in the note which they have caused

to be given to me by their Ambassador, they represent the proceeding exacted each time from the Sublime Porte, in the cases in question, as a simple preliminary notice, employed to avoid local difficulties on the approach of Turkish vessels. That act, I think I have shown, had an entirely different import; it was the consequence of the normal right of Austria-Hungary, and the corollary of the formal engagement contracted by the Sultan's Government in 1853, to recognise the legal position which Treaties and constant practice had established in the waters of Klek and Suttorina.

That the Porte itself thus understood it, that not only did it not question, but that it expressly recognized, the principle of the *mare clausum* in these waters, is what results most clearly from an official note addressed, on the 22nd March, 1871, by Ali Pasha to the Envoy of Greece at Constantinople, on the subject of the question of the admission of Hellenic ships of war into the Gulf of Arta. In this note, which was communicated at the time to the three protecting Powers of Greece, the Minister of the Sultan expressed himself in the following terms:—

"As regards the root of the question, we still believe that we are conforming to the principles of international law and the practice of other nations in employing the right of permitting or interdicting the entrance of vessels of war into the Gulf of Arta.

"All nations," says Martens, in his "Treatise on the Rights of People," section 40 "now agree that, according to rule, straits, gulfs, and the adjacent sea belong to the master of the coast, at least as far as the range of a cannon placed on the shore."

"In support of this doctrine and practice I will recall to your Excellency what happens on the coasts of Klek and Suttorina. As the two shores through which the Ottoman coast is reached belong to Austria, Ottoman ships cannot penetrate to that coast without the authorization of that Power, and this prohibition extends even to merchant ships."

It is impossible to hold clearer or more positive language, and in this is a most conclusive argument to be added to those which I have developed above.

To sum up.

The Government of His Majesty the Emperor and King having inherited the sovereign rights of the old Republic of Venice in Dalmatia, exercises them under the same conditions as its predecessor, that is to say, it preserves to the ports in question the character of *mare clausum*, which they have borne from time immemorial.

After the interval of French rule, Austria, on succeeding the French, gave up, of her own free will, the ownership of the two "enclaves," without abandoning, however, the international claims to which they were subjected in the time of the Venetians.

In short, the right, which we maintain, has never been infringed in practice, and the exceptions made to it, purely as acts of grace, far from invalidating that right, have only served to corroborate it, since the permission to land has each time been subordinated to an express recognition of the *statu quo*.

Not the least doubt, therefore, can exist as to our right to treat the waters of Klek as a closed sea.

If the Porte had accurately examined the situation, we think that, far from raising reclamations which are absolutely unsound, it ought to have expressed to us its gratitude for the numerous exceptions to the principle in question which we have made in its favour.

But as the Porte has gone so far as to formulate an official protest contesting the very essence of our right to forbid its ships access to Klek, we are, with regret, obliged to maintain the declaration which, in my despatch of the 31st of July, your Excellency was directed to make to the Ottoman Ministry, to the effect that it will be impossible for us in future, even after the present war shall have ceased, to admit the military convoys of Turkey to Klek, by way of exception, as has previously been the case, unless the Porte agrees to retract its protest in explicit and formal terms.

You are authorized, M. le Comte, to communicate this despatch to the Ministry of the Sultan, and to leave a copy of it with them should they express a desire to that effect.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) ANDRASSY.

No. 51.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 21.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an extract in translation by Mr. Michell from a Russian newspaper, suggesting that a military demonstration should be made against "Herat," and a strong force advanced towards the Asiatic frontier of Turkey, as a means of exercising pressure on England to withdraw her fleet, and on Turkey to remove one-half of the troops now concentrated in Europe for the defence of her Asiatic possessions.

This suggestion is too senseless to require any comment, but it is an indication of the excited feeling in this country both against England and Turkey.

It would appear from the reports of Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroom that a considerable Russian force is assembled on the Armenian frontier and at Alexandropol.

I have reason to believe, however, that these forces are intended for defensive, and not offensive action, as it is feared that in the absence of Turkish troops in the neighbouring provinces, Turkish fanaticism might give rise to disorders and excesses beyond the means of control by the local authorities.

With regard to a reported movement in the Caucasus, I am informed that some disturbances have taken place in Georgia, but that they are of no importance, and of no political character; they are purely local, and of an agrarian nature.

I learn from an official source that certain Mussulmans have been arrested in the Caucasus, supposed to be Turkish Agents sent there to incite the Mussulman population against the Christians.

The Grand Duke Michael, Viceroy of the Caucasus, who has been travelling in France and Germany, has been requested to return forthwith to his post, and is now on his road to Tiflis.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Extract from "Contemporary News."

(Translation.)

THE "Novoe Vremia," of $\frac{\text{July 20}}{\text{August 1}}$, makes the following extract from the "Sovremennia Izvestia" ("Contemporary News"): "Russia should make a demonstration in Central Asia, against Herat, for instance, and advance a strong force towards the Asiatic frontier of Turkey." It then proceeds to say "that such a demonstration is desirable in the interest of peace in Europe. England, in such a case, would at once withdraw her fleet, and would direct her naval forces towards Calcutta instead of Constantinople or Cairo. She then would be the first to sue for peace, and would propose an amicable settlement of the Eastern question. Such a settlement would then by dictated by Russia in her own favour, and in favour of the Christians and of the whole of humanity.

"It should be borne in mind that, simultaneously with the removal of the British fleet, Greece would rise, and Roumania would have freer scope for action, and the Porte would be forced to remove one-half of the troops now concentrated in Europe, for the defence of her Asiatic boundaries."

To these suggestions the "Novoe Vremia" observes: "That even were it considered possible for Russia to go to war, a more advantageous and much nearer arena for action could be found. In the contrary case, Asiatic demonstrations can lead to nothing."

No. 52.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 21.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 15, 1876.

I HAD an interview with Prince Gortchakow at Peterhof on Wednesday last by appointment.

His Highness informed me that he wished to communicate to me a telegram he had received from the Acting Russian Consul at Philippopoli, and a despatch which he had addressed to the Russian Representatives at the Great Courts for communication to the several European Governments.

The despatch merely embodied the substance of the telegram. It referred to the desolation of Bulgaria. It stated that the crops were left uncut; the ground untilled; the houses burnt; property pillaged; the population dispersed for safety. No authority was exercised by the Government; the Turks refused to rebuild the houses burnt, and to restore the property pillaged. Typhus was raging, and had entered the prisons, but no prisoner was released. All the cattle had been carried off; the population were in despair and houseless; totally unprovided for when the cold season comes.

The Acting Russian Consul further reported having seen Mr. Baring, who had confirmed the reports of the excesses which he had previously addressed to General Ignatiew, and which he had communicated at the time to the Porte and to his colleagues. Mr. Baring had further told him that 10,000 lives had been sacrificed in that district, and that he had seen 1,000 corpses unburied.

Prince Gortchakow said that he had instructed M. de Giers to communicate this telegram to my colleagues.

He said that the reports of the newspaper correspondents which had reached him were still more distressing, but he refrained from citing them, confining himself to those of an official character.

His Highness expressed his conviction that the English nation would be roused to indignation when it learnt the atrocities which had been committed, and that its sympathy would be given to the Christian cause.

The conversation then turned to the probability of this lamentable war being brought to a speedy conclusion. His Highness said that he did not think that the Servians despaired of success. He observed that they had shown great bravery, great endurance; but that they were a mere militia, ill-disciplined and not used to war. In a short time they would be better trained, and would prove a formidable defensive force. He observed that the Montenegrins had achieved a great victory, which counter-balanced the Servian defeat.

I could perceive that His Highness does not think that the Servian cause is lost, nor that the war was likely soon to be brought to a close.

In referring to an European mediation or intervention, Prince Gortchakow said decidedly that Russia would not take the initiatory step, but that Russia would gladly join the other Powers, when the opportune moment arrived, in the work of pacification. He said that in the event of an European Conference he should make two conditions:—1st. That it should not be held in the capital of any of the Great Powers; and, 2nd. That it should be attended by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, in order that decisions could be taken without the delay of accepting questions *ad referendum*. In his opinion England was the Power which should take the initiative, and she would play a noble part in doing so.

In speaking of Austria, Prince Gortchakow again repeated to me that he had fully discussed the question of a pacification with Count Andrassy, and that they were entirely agreed on all points and for all eventualities.

"I can state no more," said the Chancellor, "but that much I can tell you, as I have done to your colleagues; and I can add that our Ambassadors at the other Courts know no more than you do."

This language, though, perhaps, satisfactory, is mysterious, and we can only unravel the mystery by conjectures.

Prince Gortchakow stated, however, that Count Andrassy had very considerably modified his previous opinions as to the danger to Austria of granting a limited autonomy to the Turkish provinces bordering her frontier, and it is evident that Count Andrassy has yielded to the arguments of the Russian Chancellor on this point.

In talking of Constantinople, Prince Gortchakow said that the state of affairs there bordered on anarchy; that the Sultan was incapable of governing, and that a doctor famous for mental maladies had been sent for.

In referring to General Ignatiew, he said that there was no question of his recall, and that he would return to his post after visiting his estates in Southern Russia.

In the course of conversation, Prince Gortchakow referred to the arrest of certain emissaries in the Caucasus for inciting the Mussulman population. I inquired if it were true, as stated by the papers, that 150 Mollahs had been arrested. He replied that he did not know the number or the character of the persons arrested, but that certain arrests had been made.

At this interview I found his Highness calm on every subject but on that of Bulgarian atrocities, and, in discussing this subject, his Highness evinced considerable animation and emotion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 53.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 21.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 16, 1876.

I COMMUNICATED to Prince Gortchakow at a ball at Peterhof on the evening of the 11th instant your Lordship's telegram to Sir H. Elliot of the 9th instant, instructing him to press on the Porte the absolute necessity of keeping its troops under control, sparing the unarmed population, and avoiding a repetition of the outrages committed in Bulgaria.

His Highness said he was happy that your Lordship had sent this warning to the Porte, but he feared that the Porte was powerless to control the fanaticism of its armed bands.

His Highness informed me this day that he had instructed the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to support your Lordship's instructions to Sir H. Elliot.

His Highness said that he had just received a telegram from Constantinople, dated to-day, stating that the Porte had sent two Christians—one a Bulgarian and the other a Levantine—to Bulgaria to report on the truth of the alleged atrocities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 54.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 21.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 16, 1876.

ON the receipt yesterday morning of your Lordship's telegram, instructing me to inform the Imperial Government of the instructions addressed to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade, I waited on M. de Giers, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, and communicated to him the substance of it to the following effect:—

That Her Majesty's Government would not propose mediation unless asked for, but that Her Majesty's Consul-General might suggest to Prince Milan that an application from him to the Powers for their good offices would be favourably received by England.

M. de Giers informs me that, on making this communication to Prince Gortchakow, his Highness signified his satisfaction by replying "C'est bien," but that he made no further observation in reference to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 55.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 21.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 16, 1876.

THE enthusiasm for the cause of the Servians and Christian Slavs is daily increasing here. The feeling is universal, and it pervades all classes from the Crown to the peasant. The sympathy of the masses has been roused by the atrocities which have been committed n Bulgaria, and bears a religious and not a political character.

Public collections are being made for the sick and wounded. Officers with the "Red Cross," and ladies of the Court and of the Society, go from house to house, requesting subscriptions. At the railway-stations, on the steam-boats—even in the carriages of the tramways—the "Red Cross" is present everywhere, with a sealed box for donations. Every stimulant, even to the use of the name of the Empress, is resorted to, with a view to animate feelings of compassion for the suffering Christians, and to swell the funds for providing ambulances for the sick and wounded.

I am informed that such is the excitement in favour of the Christians that workmen are leaving to join the Servian army. Within the last fortnight 75 officers of the Guards have announced their intention to accept service in the Servian army; and it is reported that 120 officers at Moscow and in Southern Russia are on the point of leaving to join the Servian ranks. I am told that they have received permission from the military authorities to accept service in Servia, and that they will be reinstated in the Russian army on their return with the same rank they held on leaving.

I have also received private information that 20,000 Cossacks are going to Servia in disguise, to join the Servian army.

The number is probably greatly exaggerated; but the fact of a considerable number of Cossacks having volunteered for service in aid of the Christians is undoubtedly true.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a letter (in translation by Mr. Michell), addressed to the "Moscow Gazette," by a retired Cossack, which gives evidence of the excitement prevailing among the Cossacks on the subject of the war.

I am also informed that a Servian loan of 14,000,000 fr. has been subscribed by certain capitalists at Moscow, backed by the State Bank.

The religious feeling of the Russian nation is deeply roused in favour of their Christian Slav brethren, while the impassioned tone of the press is daily exciting the popular fever.

From the foregoing symptoms it might be feared that should any fresh atrocities occur to influence the public mind, neither the Emperor nor Prince Gortchakow would be able to resist the unanimous appeal of the nation for intervention to protect and save their co-religionists.

Prince Gortchakow, however, has assured me that the confidence of the nation in the Emperor is so great, that no danger of popular pressure on the Government is to be feared, and that the nation will strictly conform to the policy which His Majesty may think fit to pursue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Précis of Article in the "Moscow Gazette."

(Translation.)

THE Russian newspapers have on several occasions alluded to the excitement that prevails among the Cossacks on the subject of the war in Servia.

A letter addressed to the "Moscow Gazette," by a "Retired Cossack," describes that excitement in the following terms:—

"I have been staying at Novocherkask* and at other large settlements of the Don Cossacks. I cannot avoid describing to you the state of excitement in which I found our brave Cossack troops. Even women, old men, and children speak of nothing else except the Slavonian war; the warlike spirit of the Cossacks is on fire; from small to great, they all await permission to fall on the Turks like a whirlwind. Hatred and animosity against the Turks are remarkable among the whole of the Cossack troops; and, besides, we have had bad rumours every day from the Caucasus.†

"At many of the settlements, the Cossacks are getting their arms ready, with a full conviction that in a few days the order will be given to fall on the enemies of the Holy Faith and of their Slav brethren. There is, at the same time, a general murmuring against diplomacy for its dilatoriness in coming to the rescue.

"In every conversation at Novocherkask, one hears an expression of displeasure at the long inaction of Europe, which gives to the Cherkesses and the Bashi-Bazouks the possibility of cutting the throats of thousands of innocent women, children, and old men. I have learned from reliable sources that deputies have arrived from many of the Cossack

* The capital of the Cossacks of the Don.

† Probably an allusion to a supposed Mahommedan agitation in the Caucasus.

settlements to represent to the Ataman* that 'the Cossacks are no longer able to tand the extermination of the Christians.'

"I pray God that the signal should be given quickly for a struggle with the enemies of our faith. I also pray that He will give health to the whole Russian army, in order that it may take the field, including myself, a devoted son of the Fatherland and a faithful servant of the Czar.

(Signed) "N. N., *a retired Cossack.*"

No. 56.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 21.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter which I have received from M. Ristics, the Foreign Minister of Servia, in which he complains of the atrocities committed by the Turkish troops during their advance on Servian soil.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 56.

The Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Consul-General White.

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, le* 28 *Juillet,* 1876.

LE Gouvernement Princier était informé depuis quelque temps déjà par les rapports des chefs de corps que les troupes Turques commettaient des excès de nature à donner à la guerre actuelle le caractère le plus odieux.

Quoique la véracité de ces rapports fut pour ainsi dire confirmée par la voix publique, le Gouvernement Princier avait cru devoir garder le silence à ce sujet dans la pensée que les faits dénoncés pouvaient être isolés.

Il n'est malheureusement plus permis d'admettre cette hypothèse. Durant mon séjour au quartier général, j'ai acquis la douloureuse certitude qu'on n'a commis aucune exagération dans le récit des actes de cruauté et de barbarie reprochés à l'armée Turque. En outre, bien loin d'être isolés, ces actes se sont accomplis régulièrement, méthodiquement, partout où l'ennemi a pénétré eur notre territoire.

C'est ainsi que, quoique la population Serbe n'ait opposé nulle part aucunce résistance à l'invasion, l'armée Ottomane a brûlé, pillé, saccagé, sur son passage. Tous les villages qu'elle a traversés sont réduits en cendres et les églises ont été bombardées.

Un télégramme officiel de Constantinople attribue aux volontaires ces derniers actes de vandalisme. Mais comme les volontaires ne sont jamais munis d'artillerie, l'explication donnée par le susdit télégramme n'a aucune valeur, et il faut reconnaître que le bombardement et la destruction des églises restent à la charge des troupes Ottomanes régulières et des officiers qui les commandent.

Les autorités Ottomanes ne sauraient nier non plus que les Tcherkesses et les Bachi-Bozouks ont été organisés en escouades d'incendiaires. Chaque escouade se compose de quatre hommes armés et d'un cinquième qui est porteur de bouteilles de pétrole.

A l'exemple des Communards de sinistre mémoire ces hommes promènent l'incendie sur les derrières de l'armée Turque. Le fait est signalé de la manière la plus positive par plusieurs de nos officiers et entre autres par M. le Colonel Horvatovitz qui commandait à Kniagévatz.

Il convient de remarquer que les Tcherkesses et les Bachi-Bazouks sont commandés par des officiers de l'armée régulière, qu'ils sont encadrés dans les rangs de l'armée régulière et qu'ils n'agissent point isolément.

La responsabilité des actes de barbarie dont ils se rendent journellement coupables ne sauraient donc être déclinée par le Gouvernement Turc.

Les troupes Ottomanes ne se bornent pas à brûler et à détruire ; elles sont allées dans bien des cas jusqu'à enlever des femmes et des filles dont le sort est inconnu. Sont-elles destinées à entrer dans un harem ou à être vendues comme esclaves? ont-elles été assassinées par les misérables qui les ont enmenées? Les suppositions les plus tristes sont

* The Imperial Lieutenant in the country of the Don Cossacks.

malheureusement permises, car les procédés de l'ennemi avec lequel nous sommes en guerre rappellent les souvenirs les plus sanglants des invasions barbares.

Nous voyons reparaître en plein dix-neuvième siècle les hordes de pillards qui s'abattaient sur l'Europe et la mettaient à feu et à sang aux époques lointaines où la civilisation n'était qu'un mot vain.

Le Gouvernement Ottoman, qui ose parler de guerre sainte, ne craint pas en même temps de poursuivre la lutte par des moyens que reprouvent la morale, la justice, l'humanité. Et de quels instruments se sert-il pour soutenir cette guerre sainte ? Parmi les prisonniers que nos troupes ont faits dans les environs de Vidin, il se trouve douze forçats arrachés du bagne pour être incorporés à l'armée. Voilà les adversaires que nous oppose le Gouvernement Ottoman !

Nulle part les Turcs n'ont consenti à enterrer les morts. Après le combat du $\frac{6}{18}$ à Veliki-Tzvor le Colonel Leschianine, commandant des troupes Serbes voulut procéder à l'inhumation des victimes restées sur le champ de bataille à portée des canons des deux armées.. Osman Pacha a refusé de recevoir le parlementaire qui lui était envoyé à cet effet. Les cadavres des deux camps sont restés sans sépulture.

Quant aux blessés ceux que nous ne pouvons pas enlever sont presque partout mutilés et dépouillés, quand ils ne sont pas mis à mort par ces barbares modernes qui servent la Turquie sous le nom de Tcherkesses et de Bashi-Bazouks.

L'Europe n'a rien vu de semblable depuis le temps de Gengis Khan. Le Gouvernement Ottoman ne fait pas la guerre à l'armée Serbe; il poursuit l'extermination de la nation elle-même; il ravage le pays, il porte le fer, le feu, même dans les contrées où il n'a pas eu de lutte à soutenir; c'est en un mot, je le répète, le renouvellement des invasions barbares avec leur cortége d'atrocités et d'infamies.

J'ai cru de mon devoir, M. l'Agent, de vous signaler ces procédés et je vous prie de vouloir bien les porter à la haute connaissance de votre Gouvernement, afin que les Puissances soient à même d'apprécier la manière dont la Porte Ottomane soutient la lutte contre la Principauté.

Je vous prie, &c.
(Signé) T. RISTITCH.

(Translation.)

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, July* 28, 1876.

THE Prince's Government was already informed, some time ago, by the reports of the leaders of corps that the Turkish troops were committing excesses calculated to give to the present war the most odious character.

Although the truth of these reports was, so to speak, confirmed by public opinion, the Prince's Government esteemed it their duty to remain silent on this subject, in the belief that the deeds denounced to them might be isolated cases.

Unfortunately, it is no longer possible to admit this supposition. During my stay at head-quarters, I have arrived at the painful conviction that there has been no exaggeration in the account of the acts of cruelty and barbarity of which the Turkish army is accused. Moreover, far from being isolated cases, these acts have taken place regularly and systematically, wherever the enemy has penetrated into our territory.

Thus the Ottoman army, though the Servian population has nowhere opposed any resistance to the invasion, has burnt, pillaged, and sacked everywhere on its passage. All the villages which it has passed are reduced to ashes, and the churches have been shelled.

An official telegram from Constantinople attributes to the volunteers these latter acts of vandalism. But as the volunteers are never furnished with artillery, the explanation given by the above telegram has no weight, and it is evident that the regular Ottoman troops and their commanding officers must be charged with the shelling and destruction of the churches.

Neither can the Ottoman authorities deny that the Tcherkesses and the Bashi-Bazouks were organized into bands of incendiaries. Each squad is composed of four armed men, and a fifth who carries bottles of petroleum.

Like the communists of hateful memory, these men spread fire in the rear of the Turkish army. The fact is established in the most positive manner by many of our officers and, amongst others, by Colonel Horvatovitz, who was in command at Kniagevatz.

It is worthy of remark that the Tcherkesses and Bashi-Bazouks are commanded by officers of the regular army, that they are embodied in the ranks of the regular army, and that they do not act independently.

The Turkish Government cannot therefore free itself from the responsibility for the acts of barbarity of which they are daily guilty.

The Ottoman troops do not confine themselves to burning and destroying; in many instances they have gone the length of carrying off women and girls whose fate is unknown. Are they destined to enter a harem or to be sold as slaves? Have they been assassinated by the wretches who carried them off? The saddest suppositions are allowable, for the proceedings of the enemy we are now fighting recall the most bloody memories of the invasions of the barbarians.

We witness the reappearance in the middle of the nineteenth century of those hordes of plunderers who spread themselves over Europe, who set it in flames and deluged it in blood in the distant epochs when civilization was merely an empty word.

The Ottoman Government, which presumes to speak of a holy war, does not scruple at the same time to carry on the struggle by means which morality, justice, and humanity alike reprobate. And what are instruments of which it avails itself to carry on this holy war? Among the prisoners taken by our troops in the neighbourhood of Widdin are twelve convicts snatched from the galleys to be incorporated into the army. These are the adversaries whom the Turkish Government opposes to us!

Nowhere have the Turks consented to inter the dead. After the combat of the $\frac{6}{18}$th at Veliki-Tzvor, Colonel Leschianine ordered the Servian troops to proceed to bury the victims left on the field of battle within gun-shot of the two armies. Osman Pasha refused to receive the flag of truce sent to him to arrange this. The corpses of both camps remained unburied.

As regards the wounded, those we are unable to carry off are nearly always mutilated and stripped when they are not put to death by these modern barbarians, who serve Turkey under the name of Tcherkesses and Bashi-Bazouks.

Europe has seen nothing like it since the time of Gengis Khan. The Ottoman Government does not war against the Servian army; it seeks the extermination of the nation itself; it ravages the country, it carries sword and fire even into districts where no engagements have taken place. In a word, I repeat, it is the renewal of the invasions of the barbarians with their accompaniment of atrocities and infamies.

I have deemed it my duty, M. l'Agent, to inform you of these proceedings, and I beg you to be good enough to bring them to the knowledge of your Government, so that the Powers may be in a position to estimate rightly the manner in which the Porte carries on the contest against the Principality.

I beg, &c.
(Signed) T. RISTITCH.

No. 57.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 22.)

My Lord, *Adrianople, August* 7, 1876.

IN answer to your Lordship's telegram of the 14th ultimo, instructing me to proceed to Philippopoli, Tatar-Bazardjik, and elsewhere, to ascertain personally as to the truth of the atrocities alleged to have been committed by the Turkish irregular troops on the Christian population of this Province, I have the honour to state that, on the 17th ultimo, I started from here to visit those places, and on the 21st I telegraphed to your Lordship from Philippopoli as follows:—

"Although great atrocities have been committed by Turkish irregulars against Bulgarians, they have been exaggerated as regards Caza of Philippopoli. Lives sacrificed below 15,000. No women or children sold as slaves here or Tatar-Bazardjik. Sixty villages more or less burnt."

I have since, accompanied by Mr. Baring, of Her Majesty's Embassy in Constantinople, and partly alone, made a tour through this province, and visited several of the destroyed villages, and in obedience to your Lordship's instructions I now beg leave to acquaint you with the result of my mission of inquiry.

But before doing so, it will be necessary to explain the causes and understand the gravity of the recent insurrectionary movement in this vilayet, and to refer to a period which is generally recognized as the commencement of the troubles which Turkey in Europe is at present undergoing.

The insurrection in Herzegovina, by appealing to hopes and fears which had been laid aside for a time, produced feelings and revived resentments which evidently boded no

good for the internal tranquillity of Turkey. The religious exaltation produced on the Mussulmans by that insurrection was little calculated to abate those abuses of Turkish administration which, I may say, are alone the sole cause of the disaffection of the Christian populations.

The Bulgarian conspiracy, brought to light at Eski-Zaghra in September last, contributed still more to inflame Mussulman hatred. Vague rumours of an intended massacre of Christians by the Turks began to spread ever since the Ramazan in October of 1875. As the uneasiness produced by these rumours contrasted very strongly with the hopes held out by the promised reforms of the Government, the Bulgarians in many places held meetings, and decided to appeal to the Porte. Numerous petitions, I am assured, were forwarded to Constantinople from different parts of Bulgaria, praying for the redress of grievances; the carrying into operation of the promised reforms; and for the giving effect to the right granted by the Hatti-Humayoun to the Christians to serve in the army. The refusal of the Sultan's Government to entertain this last concession, and the continuance of the abuses complained against, increased, it would appear, the discontent of the Bulgarians. The uneasiness engendered by this state of feeling seemed to increase with the approach of spring. The reports of the intended massacre of Christians again revived, and by Easter had spread to such an extent that the Mass on Easter Sunday, which, in the interior of the country, generally takes place at night, was this year performed during the daytime.

The false alarm raised on Easter Sunday in a church in Eski-Zaghra, to the effect that the Turks were going to kill the Christians,—an alarm which nearly caused the death of several persons,—is only an instance of the terror inspired into the Bulgarians by the reports in question. There was no real foundation for these rumours. Yet circumstances had occurred which appeared to give them a certain semblance of truth. Thus, I am informed that three weeks before Easter, a dervish visited the Bulgarian bishop's residence in Philippopoli, and declared that within a month all the Christians would be exterminated. This occurrence was brought to the knowledge of the authorities, who, it is alleged, made no inquiries into the matter; but I since learn that such was not the case. The dervish was arrested by the Mutessarif, and expelled the place.

At the same time reports reached the Mutessarif of Philippopoli that many villages, alarmed by the current rumours, were buying arms, and concealing their property, in the event of being attacked by the Turks. Whether these facts were brought to the knowledge of the Governor-General of Adrianople is not clearly shown. No action appears to have been taken upon them, or military precautions adopted, to prevent any unpleasant consequences that might have happened.

This appears to have been the condition of things when, on the 2nd of May last, the insurrection, organized and planned by the Revolutionary Committees established during the last thirteen years, in Bucharest and Moscow, suddenly exploded at Avrat-Alan. The plan of operations of the revolutionists, assisted by the village priests and schoolmasters, was to destroy the railways and bridges throughout the vilayet; to set on fire Adrianople and Philippopoli, and to attack Tatar-Bazardjik with 5000 men, and seize upon the Government stores there. Endeavours were also made to incite the Macedonians to revolt, which, I am told, almost succeeded at a place called Rastoki; but these plans having been betrayed to the Government, it was then resolved, at a meeting of the insurgents, to proceed without a programme, but to do the best under the altered circumstances.

A sergeant of zapties, who had gone to Avrat-Alan, either to collect taxes or to effect some arrests, was suddenly attacked by armed Bulgarians, and had to fly for his life. Shortly after, troubles broke out at Otloukeuy and Bellova; at the same time the inhabitants of several Bulgarian villages, it would appear, under the impression that the impending massacre was at hand, left their homes and fled to Otlukeuy and Avrat-Alan.

The alarm appears then to have become general. The Christians were afraid that they would be massacred by the Mussulmans, while the latter were afraid that they were going to be exterminated by the Christians. The numerical strength of the insurgents was stated to be 15,000 men. The Mutessarif of Philippopoli was at that time at Tatar-Bazardjik. Troops were telegraphed for to the Governor-General of Adrianople, who, it is said, replied that, as he had no military force at his disposal, he thought that the best plan would be to raise irregulars.

On the 4th of May a meeting of some notables of Philippopoli was held, under the presidency of the Mollah, when the recommendation of the Governor-General for raising "neferi-amni" (public soldiers) was approved of, and a decision to that effect was signed, and forwarded to Adrianople. Orders were then immediately sent to different parts of the vilayet for enlisting irregulars or Bashi-Bazouks.

The plan of campaign followed by these troops was as irregular as their discipline was loose, and their motives ignoble. Thus, to take as an example, the first village destroyed, Klissoura (or Prassadin-Derwent as it is called in Turkish). This Bulgarian village (one of the largest at the foot of the Balkans), contained some 600 houses, and was very flourishing, on account of its produce in attar of roses, and the manufacture of shack (native woollen cloth), which were its two principal industries.

As soon as the troubles broke out at Avrat-Alan a report spread that commotions reigned among the inhabitants at Klissoura, caused by some emissaries from abroad. That was a sufficient reason for an immediate attack upon it on the part of the Bashi-Bazouks. Toussoun Bey, a notable of Carlowa, having assembled a body of some 1,000 Bashi-Bazouks, was soon on the spot. With scarcely any orders from the central authorities in Philippopoli, this irregular horde, imagining, as Toussoun Bey informed me, that a Russian force lay concealed in the mountains, and meeting with determined resistance on the part of the inhabitants, attacked Klissoura, on the 7th of May, and after a carnage of men, women, and children, who were unable to fly with the rest of the people to the surrounding hills, they set the whole village on fire, and completely destroyed it. The property plundered, I am told, was carried off by cartloads. The few valuables which the inhabitants succeeded in saving were subsequently taken away by the irregulars at Avrat-Alan, where some of the people had sought refuge. After wandering several days in the mountains, where many died from starvation, the fugitives returned, either to some neighbouring towns, where they live by begging, or to their destroyed villages, where they camp under tents provided by Government, and lead a most distressing life of wretchedness, want, and misery.

Simultaneously with the destruction of Klissoura, acts of a similar nature were beginning at the foot of the Rhodopus Mountains. Two large Bulgarian villages, Peroushtitza and Batak, the first in the Caza of Philippopoli, the latter in that of Tatar-Bazardjik, had, on account of their material prosperity, as it is alleged, long ago excited the envy of the Turks; but, as far as I can learn, I have reasons to believe that the inhabitants of Peroushtitza had, in the first instance, provoked the anger of the Turks by killing two Mussulmans of a neighbouring village, thus drawing upon themselves the destruction of their place. It is true that they repeatedly demanded the protection of the regular troops against the Bashi-Bazouks, and submitted to them, but they know how far they were compromised. The provocation, however, given by this village scarcely justified, in my opinion, the horrible loss of life and destruction of property caused by the Pomak Bashi-Bazouks.

It is said, without any attempt at concealment, that the Russian Vice-Consul in Philippopoli is solely responsible for the sad disasters which have befallen this flourishing village. They were attacked by the Bashi-Bazouks under the command of Tumbrasklz Ahmed Aga, plundered, and the village completely burnt down—Peroushtitza on the 13th, and Batak on the 9th of May. The carnage done at both these places, but especially at Batak, was very great. As far as I could learn, an intercepted letter, addressed to Pope Nechoff of this last village, calling upon the inhabitants to take up arms, was the cause of bringing destruction to this place. Men, women, and children appear to have been indiscriminately massacred. Many young women were carried off into the mountains, while, as regards children, some 100 of them were taken away by the Pomaks; but I believe many have since been restored to their parents with the assistance of the authorities in Philippopoli. The slaughter at Batak by the Pomak Bashi-Bazouks under the command of Ahmed Aga Barutin has been variously estimated to be between 2,000 and 5,000 persons of both sexes.

After Klissoura, Peroushtitza, and Batak, came the town of Otloukeuy. This large Bulgarian town, which contained some 1,800 houses, was attacked on the 12th of May by the regulars and irregulars under the command of Adil Pasha, Hafiz Pasha, and Selamy Pasha. After a short resistance by the insurgents, who had strongly intrenched themselves behind stone defences in its outskirts, it was entered by the Bashi-Bazouks, who, I am told, in the presence of the Generals commanding, committed all kinds of excesses. After a complete pillage of the churches and houses, one of the churches and two schools and some houses and shops were set on fire. Many of the richer inhabitants were robbed of their valuables and money, while several innocent men, women, and children lost their lives. It having been currently reported that many women had been violated at Otloukeuy, I made diligent inquiries when there to ascertain the truth of these reports; and, although I do not doubt that such may have been the case, still, as no fathers of families came forward to complain of acts of this nature, I have failed to establish a single instance of this kind. Indeed, the case was mentioned of a young schoolmistress, Raïka Poppova, who, having been captured by some soldiers, was kept under their tent for

several days. This young woman denied having been outraged, but I have since been told she subsequently admitted the fact to others.

While the destruction of these four large villages, which may almost be called small towns, was going on, the work of devastation followed its course in other parts of the Province. Several cases of the destruction of whole families at Otloukeuy were related to me. I shall only mention two. The wife of Peter Balabunoff, her two sons, her daughter-in-law, and her grand-child were killed by the Bashi-Bazouks without any provocation, and their house burnt; Stozan Youroucoff, an old man, his two sons, his daughter-in-law, and her child, were also massacred in their house. All the villages abandoned by the inhabitants were invaded by the Bashi-Bazouks, completely plundered, and more or less destroyed.

In many instances, the villages were set on fire by the Bulgarians themselves, in order to compel its inhabitants to take up arms. The village of Singerli, now a complete mass of ruins, was, in the first instance, set on fire by the priest. This man, to force the people to rise against the Government, rushed about the place, knife in hand, telling them that their hour of deliverance had arrived, and that Russian soldiers were at hand to aid them against the Turks.

I am assured, on reliable and independent authority, that the Bulgarian insurrection was carefully and skilfully planned by men possessing knowledge and experience in military tactics from foreign parts. Had their plans succeeded, or if the Bulgarians had got the upper hand of the Turks, there is little doubt the existence of Turkey in Europe would have been endangered, and the Bulgarians would have committed far greater excesses than are laid to the charge of the Mussulmans, from the fact that the former had, from the commencement of the disturbances, killed every Turk they came across, regardless as to age or sex, and by the practising upon them, in several instances, of unspeakable atrocities.

It is impossible to estimate the total number of lives sacrificed during the recent insurrectionary movement. There are no statistical returns to show the former population of the destroyed villages, so that no conclusions can be drawn from the number of those who have escaped death. For this reason, I am reduced to mere approximative estimates. Taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case, and from personal inquiries in the different places I visited, I am inclined to think that the number of lives sacrificed will not be more than 10,000. It must be remembered, however, that this number applies only to the districts of Philippopoli and Tatar-Bazardjik. The loss of life in the district of Slimnia (vilayet of Adrianople) and Turnovo (vilayet of the Danube) has been, according to all accounts, also very great. I have not visited these localities, but I am afraid that the total number of lives lost must be carried to a higher figure in order to attain anything approaching accuracy in these deplorable affairs. The same may be said with respect to the destruction of villages. No very reliable list can yet be given of those destroyed or burnt, yet from all the facts I have been able to gather, I conclude that the number of large and small villages destroyed in the Caza of Philippopoli will not exceed eighteen, while those in the Caza of Tatar-Bazardjik may be put down at thirty-nine. Apart from these, four monasteries have also been pillaged and destroyed. But in the district of Turnovo also, especially in the Caza of Gabrovo and Sevlievo, the destruction of life and property has also been very great.

Atrocities have undoubtedly been committed as well by the Bulgarians as by the Turks. Thus at Carlowo it was related to me, on good authority, that a Turkish boy had both his arms flayed to the elbow by the Bulgarians.

While at Otloukeuy the Bulgarians massacred eighty Mussulmans, and cut up a child into pieces, and publicly offered the flesh for sale, and committed other unspeakable atrocities on females.

As regards the torturing of prisoners by the Turks, no case has been proved to my satisfaction. It is true that Bulgarian prisoners are very cruelly treated while being conveyed by the military, or police, from place to place, and several have died on the way, but there is nothing positive to show that they had died from the infliction of musket-end blows as is alleged.

Having been informed that five Bulgarian political prisoners, while being escorted by soldiers from Philippopoli to Sofia, to undergo their trial, died on the road, and that Pope Mico was made to endure a horrible bodily torture, which interfered with nature having its course, I made particular inquiries on the subject from the medical man who attended him, but I failed to establish the case.

Again, with regard to Pope Peter Patcharutoff, of Peshtera, who was sent under escort to Tatar-Bazardjik, and on the way was beaten and shown the dead bodies of thirteen men, and threatened that unless he made certain revelations required of him he, too, would

be put to death, I think the man was more frightened than hurt. I have seen and spoken to Pope Patcharutoff myself, and I must say he certainly did not appear to me like a man who had undergone torture.

At Kalofer, in the Balkans, I made careful inquiries respecting the case of the women, fugitives from Yenikeuy, who were said to have been violated, and then burnt alive by the Bashi-Bazouks in a hayloft near Kalofer; but as Yenikeuy is in Bulgaria proper, nobody could give me any positive intelligence on the subject, beyond telling me that several of those fugitives had been killed and robbed.

With respect to the public sale of women and children as slaves by Turks or Circassians, no such thing has been brought to my knowledge as having occurred, either in Philippopoli, Tatar-Bazardjik, or elsewhere in this province. It is quite possible, however, that such may have taken place in some remote corner of the vilayet, but I have not heard of a case. One circumstance is reported as having occurred at Boyadjievo (district of Slimnia), but I am not in a position to guarantee its truth.

I beg leave to inclose herewith a list of the Turkish and Bulgarian villages in the district of Philippopoli totally or partially destroyed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure in No. 57.

List of the Turkish and Bulgarian Villages in the District of Philippopoli totally or partially Destroyed.

I.—*Caza of Philippopoli.*

Sindjirlyi.—With church and school; 200 houses; totally destroyed.
Yenikeuy (in Bulgaria, Staro Novo Selo).—Church, with three priests, of whom two have been hanged. School and 300 houses totally destroyed.
Eleshnitza.—With church and school; 90 houses; totally destroyed.
Krastovo.—With church and school; 100 houses; partially destroyed.
Gheren.—No church or school; 70 houses; totally destroyed.
Eleryi.—Church and school; 200 houses; partially destroyed.
Sary-Ghiol.—No church or school; 45 houses; totally destroyed.
Aivadjik.—No church or school; 50 houses; totally destroyed.
Pastousha.—With church and 20 houses; totally destroyed.
Drebitchka.—With church and school; 90 houses; totally destroyed.
Assy-Korua.—Church and school; 140 houses; partially destroyed.
Saraja.—Partially destroyed.
Kozarsko.—Church and school; 110 houses; totally destroyed.
Saratsovo.—No church or school; 40 houses; partially destroyed.
Peroushtitza.—With 2 churches and 2 schools, 320 houses; totally destroyed. One of the priests of this village, Pope Stormen, was massacred, with his children and followers, while making their submission to the Chief of Bashi-Bazouks, Ahmed Aga, of Tumbrush.
Klissoura (Prassadin Derwent).—With church and 2 schools; 600 houses; totally destroyed.
Boïkovo.—With church and school; 60 houses; totally destroyed.
Dadova.—With church and school; 50 houses; partially destroyed.

II.—*Caza of Tatar-Bazardjik.*

Batak.—With church and school; 600 houses; totally destroyed.
Otlukeuy (Panagurishte).—Two churches, 2 schools, 1,800 houses; partially destroyed.
Vetren.—Church and school; partially destroyed.
Streltcha.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Radilovo.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Bellova.—Ditto; partially destroyed. Railway station burnt down.
Kara-Moussul.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Slacovitza.—Ditto; partially destroyed.
Doganovo.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Djuma.—Ditto; totally destroyed.

Kalaglare.—Church and school; partially destroyed.
Syrt-Orman.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Bega.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Okjularé.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Elleedéré.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Shahlare.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Kouleh.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Sktrykovo.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Ali-Hontza.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Dinka.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Zlakoucha.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Tserovo.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Kalougierovo.—Ditto; partially destroyed.
Lessitchevo.—Ditto; partially destroyed.
Metchka.—Ditto; partially destroyed.
Petritch.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Golak.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Déré-Orman.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Tekir.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Kassapli.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Bania.—Partially destroyed.
Eshekli.—Ditto.
Kinpeli.—Totally destroyed.
Eski-Kasli.—Ditto.
Palanka.—Ditto.
Djefferli.—Ditto.
Ouratchly.—Ditto.
Dohanli.—Ditto.
Poïbrind.—Ditto.

The following Monasteries have also been completely destroyed, after having previously undergone a thorough pillage:—

The Monastery of Peroushtitza, St. Theodore.
The Monastery of Kritchim, Holy Virgin.
The second Monastery of Kritchim, St. Kosma and Damian.
The Monastery of Kalougierovo, St. Nicholas.

No. 58.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 22.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, August* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copy of a Report addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the 11th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, August* 11, 1876.

I DEEM it my duty to report to your Excellency that yesterday sentences were pronounced upon about twenty of the insurgents captured during the late rising in this pilayet.

Eight or ten were condemned to fifteen years' hard labour, others to shorter terms; a few were acquitted; and three were condemned to be hanged, and were executed immediately after the breaking up of the Court.

I am told by several persons who happened to be present that, so slight was the cord with which one was executed, that it broke three times, and it did not break a fourth time

solely from the unfortunate man being, in fact, partly held up by several of the military who were carrying out the execution; the intense suffering of the wretched man may be imagined.

The other two who suffered, I am told also by several witnesses, were most inhumanly treated on their way to the scaffold by their executioners, who appeared to be gloating over their revolting task, by making use of the most shocking expressions and gestures to every Bulgarian Christian they met on the way.

The effect of the cruel barbarity of these scenes on the Christians here in general, native and foreign, is such that it will be a matter of surprise if another chapter is not soon added to the already notorious tale of "Turkish atrocities in Bulgaria."

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing, a gentleman has come to tell me that it has been ascertained that the Procureur of the Government at the trial only asked for the execution of two of the men that were hanged; he asked for imprisonment, with hard labour, for the third, but the Court, notwithstanding, condemned him to death. I had heard of this from several, but was not sure till now that it was really the case.

R. R.

No. 59.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 23.)

My Lord, *Scutari, August* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting to his Excellency the changes that have been effected in the military command and civil Government of North Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, August* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Achmed Hamdi Pasha has been replaced in the command-in-chief of the Turkish forces collected on the southern frontiers of Montenegro, by Mahmoud Hamdi Pasha (General Freund), who has also been promoted to the rank of Mouchir, or Field-marshal, and that Mustafa Pasha, recently a member of the Military Council at Constantinople, has been named Vali of North Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 60.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 23.)

My Lord, *Scutari, August* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, and reporting to his Excellency the arrival of Prak Bib Doda from Constantinople, and the satisfaction felt at his return by the native Christians and the Mirdite Chiefs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, August* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Prak Bib Doda arrived here yesterday from Constantinople, and that he was received with marked respect and satisfaction by the native Christians and by a number of Mirdite Chiefs who had come to Scutari for the express purpose of meeting their kinsman.

The Prince proceeds to-day to Podgoritza, where he has been summoned by Mahmoud Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 61.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 23.)

My Lord *Scutari, August* 12, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, and reporting to his Excellency the pillage of the Orthodox Slav church at Podgoritza, by the Zeïbek Bashi-Bazouks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIKBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, August* 12, 1876.

IN continuation of my despatches concerning the conduct of the Zeïbek Bashi-Bazouks, I have now the honour to report to your Excellency that these irregulars, shortly after their arrival at Podgoritza, entered and pillaged the Orthodox Slav church of that place. The authorities have imprisoned some of the delinquents; but, unless these volunteers are more clearly made to understand that the acceptance of their services entails their subjection to severe military laws, they will remain a danger for everything and everybody they approach, with the exception of, perhaps, for the enemy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 62.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 23.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 19 *Août,* 1876.

L'AMBASSADEUR d'Angleterre vient de nous communiquer la dépêche suivante adressée par son Gouvernement au Consul-Général Anglais à Belgrade, le 14 Août:—

"Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine ne proposera pas la médiation à moins qu'elle ne lui soit demandée; mais vous êtes autorisé à suggérer au Prince Milan qu'une demande de sa part aux Puissances pour leurs bons offices serait favorablement agréée par l'Angleterre."

Comme l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, en nous communiquant la dépêche précitée, a voulu connaître la pensée du Gouvernement Impérial à ce sujet, son Altesse le Grand Vizir s'est empressé de l'assurer que nul plus que le Gouvernement Impérial ne souhaitait la prompte cessation du conflit actuel que la Sublime Porte avait tout fait pour prévenir mais que l'agression inqualifiable des Serbes a rendu inévitable. Ouvertement menacée par l'Administration Princière, la Sublime Porte a dû, pour défendre ses droits, se soumettre aux plus lourds sacrifices. La nation a supporté et supporte ces

sacrifices avec une résignation qu'elle puise dans le sentiment des nécessités de la situation et dans l'espoir d'arriver à un résultat qui garantisse le pays contre le retour de pareilles éventualités. Jusqu'à présent nos armes, quoique heureuses, n'ont pas encore obtenu un succès qui fût de nature à donner au sentiment national la satisfaction qu'il est en droit de réclamer, et à servir de leçon sévère aux agitateurs Slaves. Dès lors, comment le Gouvernement Impérial pourrait-il accéder à toute démarche qui, aux yeux de la nation, passerait comme une rénonciation à exiger les garanties matérielles qui seules peuvent nous rassurer après l'expérience que nous venons de faire de l'inefficacité des efforts et des conseils des Puissances? En outre, il conviendrait, ce nous semble, que le Prince de Serbie s'adressât directement pour demander la paix. Cette manière d'agir pourrait en quelque sorte flatter l'amour-propre national et être considérée comme une satisfaction morale. Une telle démarche pourrait seule mettre le Gouvernement Impérial vis-à-vis de la nation dans la plénitude de cette liberté qui est indispensable en pareille circonstance. Telles ont été les explications que la Sublime Porte a données à l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre; et, en vous en faisant part pour votre information, c'est dans ce sens que je vous prierai de vous exprimer le cas échéant.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 19, 1876.

THE English Ambassador has just communicated to us the following despatch addressed by his Government to the English Consul-General at Belgrade on August 14:—

"The Government of Her Majesty the Queen will not propose mediation unless asked to do so; but you are authorized to suggest to Prince Milan that a request on his part to the Powers for their good offices would be favourably received by England."

As the English Ambassador, when communicating to us the above despatch, wished to learn the views of the Imperial Government on this matter, his Highness the Grand Vizier has hastened to assure him that none desired more than the Imperial Government a prompt cessation of the existing conflict, which the Sublime Porte had done everything to avoid, but which the unjustifiable aggression of the Servians rendered inevitable. Openly threatened by the Prince's Administration, the Sublime Porte has been forced in defending its rights, to submit to heavy sacrifices. The nation has supported and still continues to bear these sacrifices with a resignation which is derived from a sense of the necessities of the situation, and from the hope of arriving at a result which shall guarantee the country against a return of such eventualities. Up to the present time our arms, though successful, have not yet obtained a success sufficient to give that satisfaction to the national feeling which it has a right to demand, and to serve as a severe lesson to the Slav agitators. Consequently, how could the Imperial Government consent to take a step which, in the eyes of the nation, would seem like renouncing the right of exacting those material guarantees which can alone reassure us, after our recent experiences of the inefficacy of the efforts and counsels of the Powers?

Further, it would be proper, it seems to us, that the Prince of Servia should himself sue directly for peace. This line of conduct would to a certain extent flatter the national *amour-propre*, and be considered a moral satisfaction. Such a step alone could give to the Imperial Government, as regards its relations with the nation, that full liberty of action which is indispensable under such circumstances. Such are the explanations which the Sublime Porte has given to the English Ambassador; and, in making you acquainted with them, for your information, it is in this sense that I beg you to express yourself, if it is necessary.

No. 63.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1876.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government do not contemplate the probability of the Powers proposing to the Porte any fresh concessions to Servia in the event of Prince Milan applying for mediation.

The danger to Turkey from a continuance of the war on the other hand is great, owing to the daily-increasing excitement in Russia.

The recent events in Bulgaria have produced the most unfavourable effect on public opinion in England.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 64.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 24, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 24, 1876, 10 P.M.

THIS evening the Representatives of the six Guaranteeing Powers met by invitation at the Palace, when Prince Milan, in the presence of his Foreign Minister, asked them to apply to their respective Governments for their good offices for re-establishing peace between Porte and Servia, and to obtain with that view a prompt cessation of hostilities. His Highness added it would be desirable that the pacification should also include Montenegro.

No. 65.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby. —(Received August 25.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, August* 14, 1876.

THE peculiar circumstances under which I was induced to address to your Lordship my telegrams of the 5th, 8th, 11th, and 13th instant require some explanation.

From the frequent intercourse I constantly keep up with leading persons here, I have been able to watch from day to day the impressions produced on them by passing events, and the effects on their minds of the great disappointment at the turn which this war has taken, and of alarm at the character which it is sure to assume if it is to be kept up as a war of resistance.

The primary object of this war was to have been the emancipation of Christian Serbs in Bosnia, and the establishment in that Province of a new state of things by means of an armed occupation.

With that view, the main Servian forces were to have entered Bosnia, and to have given efficient assistance there to the Christian inhabitants.

Such was the plan drawn up here as long ago as January last, but modified in this very essential point subsequently to General Tchernaieff's arrival here.

This General concentrated his principal forces about Nisch, where he kept them in comparative inactivity nearly three weeks.

The troops sent into Bosnia did not act anywhere in a sufficiently large body; they were scattered and disseminated from the commencement, and failed in penetrating in any direction so as to produce any encouragement on the unarmed Rayahs, or any impression on the native Mahommedan population.

The offensive position assumed on the eastern frontier had to be abandoned by General Tchernaieff subsequently, and a strong Turkish force having succeeded in pushing its way to Kniajevats, after some hard fighting, the line of the Timok was given up, and Saitchar was evacuated by the Servian troops, by an order of the General, without any serious attempt to retain possession of that important line some days longer.

In the rear of this line, and between it and the Morava, the Servians continue in possession of another and a much stronger mode of defence, in the shape of natural mountains and of a few passes or defiles, which, if occupied by really good troops, might render access to the Morava, to a hostile army and to its artillery, almost impossible.

The last six weeks have given sufficient evidence, however, that the untrained ploughmen of Servia, although in appearance presenting an excellent material for forming soldiers, have not acquired hitherto the qualities indispensable to fight the battles of their country, and that in the field they think much more of their homes and farms than of the glory to be achieved by prowess.

It is asserted by some enthusiastic advisers of the Prince, that the continuation of the war for a couple of months longer, if this were possible, would bring out some things to the advantage of the Servian cause, and that these are worth any sacrifice; that it would render evident to the civilized world the impossibility for Turkey to carry on any other

* Repeated to Embassies.

than a barbarous system of warfare; that it would form and instruct a portion of the native militia, and convert them, by strict discipline, into regular soldiers; and that last, not least, it would so stir up the Slav feelings in Russia, and the sympathies of the rest of Christian Europe, that the Emperor of Russia would ultimately espouse their cause, and come to their assistance quite openly.

The prospect that Greece or Roumania, or both, will ere long enter the lists as belligerents is still depended upon in their calculations by the partizans of a war "à outrance."

This view is naturally strictly adhered to by two or three Ministers, by the numerous Russians who have been attracted here by Slav patriotism, or have been sent by Slavonic Committees, and by the partizans of the Omladina, but it is not numerously represented.

The peasant yeomen are, I believe, utterly sick of the war,—if they ever were in its favour,—but as the entire able-bodied male population is under arms, and as the introduction of a strong Russian element among the officers has rendered the introduction of a much more severe discipline possible, there is not the slightest chance that any movement should be initiated by the country people in favour of peace, unless it took the form of a mutiny.

The opinion of the city of Belgrade counts for little at this time, its male citizens and burghers are mostly in the field, and those that remain are the subjects of a foreign Power, or strangers who have come hither to take some part or other in the excitement, and without any real stake in the country.

It is admitted, however, by all well-informed persons, that if the initiative for the negotiation of peace were taken by a strong Government, and if the restoration of the *status quo ante bellum* could be secured, such a Government would meet with the general approbation of the people,—if these could be polled,—and that they would find in that approbation a full compensation for any risk or responsibility attaching to the adoption of such a policy.

A prolongation of this war must lead either to the ruin of Servia, by bringing about all the distress and devastation which are sure to follow in the track of a Turkish invasion, or an exhaustion of all the resources of the Principality in protracting a contest which has become now, at least, hopeless.

Hopeless in this sense that though Servia may still do much harm to Turkey in the way of draining the resources of the Porte, it can no longer entertain the least hope of carrying the war beyond her own frontiers unless Russia should ultimately come to her rescue.

But should this even come to pass, of which as yet there is no certainty and little prospect, public men here are agreed, with few exceptions, to this, that a foreign armed intervention would completely change the conditions and character of the present contest.

The Servian question, nay, perhaps even the independence of Servia, would run the risk of being swamped in new questions which would be sure to arise if one or several Great Powers were to interfere actively in the present struggle; many Servians see this quite well even now, the commanding tone of Russian Committees and their Agents, and the protectorate exercised by them on all their acts which has been rendered necessary by this war, alarms many of them, and hurts their self-respect.

They feel that such aid may become a delusion in the long run, whilst if the assistance were not given for a few months, and Servia were left to her own resources, and abandoned to her fate in the end, a state of things might arise when it may be most difficult to keep up a regular Government and to preserve the existing institutions should the Principality become entirely devastated, ruined, and a prey to contending rival parties.

The above considerations have weighed so heavily lately on the mind of Prince Milan that he has sought to impress them on a few of his Ministers, and to obtain advice from some of the foreign Representatives; but it is still doubtful whether he will have it in his power to take advantage of the counsels thus obtained.

No. 66.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 25)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, August* 16, 1876.

THE French Acting Consul-General, M. de Kerjegu, called upon me this morning, and showed me a telegram from the Duc Decazes, instructing him to tell the Prince of

Servia that the French Government was disposed to receive favourably an application from His Highness to the Powers for their good offices.

I was also informed by him that the Duke had sent him these instructions as soon as he had been made acquainted by Lord Lyons with your Lordship's views on the subject, as conveyed to me in your telegram of the 14th instant.

No. 67.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 25.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 17, 1876.

I HAVE made some inquiries as to the number of foreign officers who have accepted commissions in the Servian army during the war up to this moment.

I have been told that 200 Russian officers have done so; the number of Germans is nearly 100, whilst the only British subject is Mr. H. R. H. MacIver, of Edinburgh, who has previously held commissions in the cavalry in several foreign services.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 68.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 25.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, August* 17, 1876.

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship the language held by me to persons connected with this Government, who were trying to obtain from me some indication as to the probability of Her Majesty's Government undertaking a mediation in their favour.

Subsequently M. Ristich called upon me, and in speaking of the turn affairs were taking, he intimated that the prospect of a termination of hostilities would be greatly advanced if he could obtain some reliable information as to the intention of the Powers to restore to Servia the *status quo ante bellum* unimpaired.

After receiving your Lordship's telegraphic instructions on the 14th instant, I saw M. Ristich twice, and after much conversation he led me to believe that the advisableness of applying to the Powers for their good offices was under consideration; that he was delighted to think that Her Majesty's Government were favourably disposed to such a step on their part; that the Emperor of Russia had expressed a wish for peace in a telegram addressed to Prince Milan, congratulating him on the birth of an heir; and that, therefore, he saw no difficulty whatever in this course being adopted.

No. 69.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 25.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 18, 1876.

I SAW Prince Milan yesterday afternoon by appointment, and nothing could be more reassuring as to his Highness' wish to see the war terminate than his language to me.

He assured me that he was about to take advantage of the suggestions made to him, and to apply for the good offices of the powers as soon as some matters of detail had been settled between him and his Ministers. His language was even stronger than that of M. Ristich; and he spoke in the same sense subsequently on the same day to my French and to my Italian colleagues, so as to leave no doubt on our minds as to the sincerity of his peaceful inclinations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE

No. 70

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 21, 1876.

I HEAR that Prince Milan has communicated to St. Petersburgh and to his ally the Prince of Montenegro his intention to apply to the Great Powers for their good offices.

I do not know what replies have been received from either quarter, but I gather that, for some reason hitherto unknown, there is considerable hesitation in following a course which I had every reason to believe was fully decided upon three days ago; and I should not be surprised to hear now that some time longer will elapse before anything is done in this direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 71.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 11, 1876.

WITH reference to the postscript of my despatch of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a letter from Safvet Pasha, stating that, with the exception of the leaders and organizers of the late insurrection in Bulgaria, all persons awaiting their trial shall be released, and no other arrests made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Safvet Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Canlidja, ce Jeudi* (10) *matin.*

LUNDI dernier votre Excellence m'avait engagé d'entretenir son Altesse le Grand Vézir de l'opportunité qu'il y aurait d'accorder maintenant l'amnistie aux Bulgares impliqués dans les derniers mouvements. Son Altesse, à qui je m'empressai de faire part de l'idée de votre Excellence, en apprécia immédiatement la justesse et la portée et elle vient d'être adoptée par le Conseil des Ministres dans sa séance d'hier.

La décision du Conseil porte qu'en dehors de ceux qui ont été déjà jugés et condamnés, tous ceux qui sont actuellement détenus ou poursuivis pour avoir pris part à l'insurrection seront mis en liberté sans retard et ne seront plus recherchés à raison de ce crime.

Seuls les chefs et organisateurs de l'insurrection sont exceptés de cette mesure de clémence. Ceux-ci devront subir les conséquences de leurs méfaits; mais l'instruction de leur procès sera déférée aux autorités ordinaires. Les Tribunaux extraordinaires cesseront de fonctionner; et personne ne sera desormais arrêté ni poursuivi de ce chef. A cet effet les ordres nécessaires ont été déjà transmis par le télégraphe aux Gouverneurs-Généraux et autres autorités compétentes.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence, je suis certain qu'elle y verra une nouvelle preuve des sentiments de modération que le Gouvernement Impérial n'a cessé d'apporter dans cette malheureuse affaire.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Canlidja, Thursday* (10) *morning.*

LAST Monday your Excellency urged me to draw the attention of his Highness the Grand Vizier to the opportunity that offered itself of granting at the present moment an amnesty to the Bulgarians implicated in the late movements. His Highness, to whom I forthwith communicated your Excellency's idea, at once appreciated its justice and significance, and it was adopted by the Council of Ministers at yesterday's sitting.

The Council has decided that, with the exception of those already tried and

sentenced, all who are at this moment prisoners, or who are being prosecuted for having taken part in the insurrection, shall be set at liberty without delay, and shall be no longer molested on account of this crime.

The leaders and organizers of the insurrection will alone be excepted from this measure of clemency. These latter must undergo the consequences of their misdeeds; but the ordinary authorities will conduct their trial. The duties of the extraordinary Tribunals will cease; and there will be no more arrests or pursuits on this head. The necessary orders to this effect have been already transmitted by telegraph to the Governors-General and other competent authorities.

In conveying the above to your Excellency's knowledge, I feel sure that you will recognize therein a new proof of those sentiments of moderation by which the Imperial Government has not ceased to be actuated in this unhappy business.

Receive, &c.

(Signed) SAFVET.

No. 72.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 13, 1876.

IF the Turkish campaign in Servia is successful, I have every expectation that the force of public opinion will oblige the Porte to insist upon the resumption of the right to maintain garrisons in the Servian fortresses.

The right of Turkey to require this is clear according to the Treaties, and the Government which sympathises most with Servia announced before the war that, in the event of an unprovoked aggression upon Turkey, the Principality would be left to bear the consequences of its act.

But whatever may be the rights of the Porte upon the point, resulting either from Treaty or military success, and however explicit may have been the declaration that Servia would be left to bear the consequences of a defeat, great doubt must be felt whether that declaration will be acted up to, and in all my conversations with the Turkish Ministers I endeavoured to impress upon them that their object should rather to bring the war to an early termination than to require conditions which may prolong it.

The material advantages of having small garrisons in the more distant fortresses are probably not great, and the war may drag on for some time before they can be obtained possession of, and if the Porte feels forced to put forward the claim at all, it would do well to confine the demand to Alexinatz and Zaitchar, the possession of which by the Servians has been shown to have afforded them such facilities for the attack upon Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 73.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 14, 1876.

A TELEGRAM from the Governor of Widdin, dated yesterday, states that when it became known that 200 Servians, who had taken refuge with the Turkish army, had been kindly received, a body of 1,500 others, men, women, and children, presented themselves in the Ottoman camp at Belgradjik, declaring that on the conclusion of peace they would only return to their homes as Turkish subjects, living upon land assigned to them by the Turkish Government. In order that the example of these refugees might be followed by others, orders were given to the Kaïmakam of Belgradjik to treat them with all possible kindness, to distribute rations to them regularly, and to provide them with proper lodgings.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 74.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 16, 1876.

THE Council of State, which for the last six or eight years has been a clog in the way of every useful measure, and a means of keeping unsettled every claim against the Government, is undergoing a complete transformation, and will, for the future, be organized in the manner shown in the inclosed extract from the "Levant Herald."

It had become a refuge for persons who had proved their incapacity in other employments; but I am told that the selection of the thirty-three members who will now compose it is on the whole satisfactory.

Out of that number there are eleven Christians—a smaller proportion than they would seem to be entitled to, and it must cause regret that not one Christian has been appointed President of the several sections into which the Council is divided.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Newspaper Extract.

THE NEW COUNCIL OF STATE.—According to the Turkish papers of to-day the Council of State has been reorganized and divided into four sections, Administrative, Judicial, for Public Works, and for the Execution of Reforms. Midhat Pasha is and remains President of Council of State, having under him four Vice-Presidents, each of whom will be President of one of the new sections, which are constituted as follows:—

Administrative Section.—Hamdi Pasha, Vice-President of the Council of State, President. Members: Edhem Pasha, Mustapha Pasha, Sahib Bey, Ali Shefik Bey, Edib Effendi, Fazyl Bey, Yvantcho Effendi, Serkis Effendi, and Manzour Pasha, &c.

Judicial Section,—Mustapha Effendi, Vice-President of the Council of State, President. Members: Halim Pasha, Emin Effendi (of Bagdad), Riza Bey (of Scutari, in Albania), Djelal Bey, Izzet Effendi. and Yorgaki Effendi.

Section of Public Works.—Raouf Bey, Vice-President of the Council of State, President. Members: Nedjib Effendi, Mihran Bey, Bedros Effendi, Kiamil Pasha, Midhat Bey, Nourian Effendi, and Kaliadi Bey.

Section of Reforms.—Bessim Bey, Vice-President of the Council of State, President. Members: Seifeddin Effendi, Ali Bey, Ohannes Effendi, Yanko Effendi, and Costaki Effendi. The Secretaries of this latter section are Ali Fuad Bey and Sureya Bey.

No. 75.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 17, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the Proclamation addressed by the Porte to the Servians, which has this day been issued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Proclamation addressed to the Servians by the Sublime Porte.

Serbes!

VOUS êtes les descendants de ces ancêtres qui ont vécu pendant plus de cinq siècles en paix et en sécurité sous l'égide paternelle du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman. Ce Gouvernement s'est efforcé de combler de ses bienfaits vos ancêtres; il a témoigné des mêmes sentiments de justice et de bienveillance envers vous autres qui êtes leurs descendants.

Les Serbes, de leur côté, en réconnaissance de ces faveurs, et tout en conservant leur

nationalité, n'ont jamais songé, pendant une longue époque, qu'aux intérêts économiques et à la prospérité de leur pays.

C'est que les Serbes écoutaient les conseils de leurs sages vieillards qui avaient à cœur le progrès et le salut de leur pays; aussi, avaient-ils persévéré dans une fidélité inaltérable envers la Sublime Porte pendant toutes les guerres et toutes les révolutions qui ont bouleversé le monde depuis quarante ans. Ils ont vécu dans la paix, et cette conduite judicieuse et honnête de ces sujets fidèles était constamment l'objet de la satisfaction du Gouvernement Impérial, qui ayant pris en considération l'expression de chacun de leurs vœux, a périodiquement ajouté des immunités nouvelles à celles dont ils jouissaient jusqu'alors.

La Sublime Porte a tenu surtout à prouver que dans ses sentiments elle ne fait aucune distinction entre les Serbes et ses sujets Musulmans ou Chrétiens, et, pour leur témoigner une fois de plus la confiance qu'elle avait placée en eux, elle avait conféré au Prince de Serbie le commandement des places fortes de cette province.

Toutefois, les hommes qui se trouvaient à la tête des affaires en Serbie ont voulu, au mépris des intentions et des instincts pacifiques du peuple Serbe, se servir de lui comme d'un instrument docile pour satisfaire leur propre et insatiable ambition; ils ont égaré une partie de la nation Serbe, et lui ont fait porter secours aux rebelles de l'Herzégovine et de la Bosnie.

Ces hommes funestes répondaient aux représentations de la Cour Suzeraine et aux exhortations des Grandes Puissances, en faisant retomber la responsabilité de leurs propres actes sur la nation. Ils ont ainsi trahi la cause des Serbes, et ils ont aggravé la situation des malheureux qu'ils prétendaient secourir.

Dans ce dernier temps, ils ont accueilli chez eux des officiers et des chefs étrangers; et, d'après les plans que ceux-ci ont imaginés, ils ont mis de force les armes dans les mains du peuple Serbe pour attaquer et combattre soudainement des voisins avec lesquels ce peuple vivait en paix depuis 500 ans, pour incendier et dévaster leurs villages et leurs foyers.

La Serbie est une partie intégrante de l'Empire Ottoman, et ses habitants sont les sujets du Gouvernement Impérial. Les intérêts de l'une et de l'autre sont intimement liés. Ce gouvernement pourrait-il donc voir avec satisfaction que la Serbie soit ruinée par la guerre? Mais, s'il a été forcé d'occuper militairement son territoire, ce n'est que pour châtier les insensés qui voulaient empiéter sur ses droits et pour mettre un terme à leur criminels attentats.

Le Gouvernement déplore profondément les malheurs et les pertes que le peuple Serbe a subis, par suite de la résistance opiniâtre qu'une fraction égarée de ce peuple a cru pouvoir opposer à ses armées. Il déplore qu'une partie constitutive de l'Empire soit désolée par les calamités de la guerre, et que tant de femmes, d'enfants, de vieillards et de paysans inoffensifs soient réduits aux plus dures épreuves.

Les hommes qui avaient pris dans leurs mains les rênes du Gouvernement en Serbie, et dont le devoir sacré était de servir les intérêts de leur pays, en lui assurant les bienfaits de la paix et en travaillant à augmenter les sources de sa prospérité, ont dissipé l'argent du peuple en armements et en préparatifs de guerre. C'est ainsi que l'ambition effrénée et les mauvaises passions les ont amenés à employer au préjudice de ce peuple l'épargne que chacun avait amassée pour soutenir sa famille, ses enfants et tous les siens.

Serbes!

Sachez bien que le Gouvernement Impérial considère comme ses enfants tous ses sujets sans distinction, tant Musulmans que Chrétiens. Aucun père au monde ne veut le mal de ses propres créatures. L'occupation militaire de la Serbie ne saurait donc avoir pour but la ruine de cette belle province et de ses honnêtes habitants; c'est uniquement pour punir ceux qui, après une injuste et odieuse agression, ont tenté de résister en armes contre le Gouvernement Impérial, et ont attiré, de propos délibéré, tant de malheurs immérités sur une population paisible. Quant aux habitants inoffensifs, ils peuvent compter sur la protection efficace et la bienveillance toute particulière de la Sublime Porte.

En tout état de cause, les sympathies du Gouvernement Impérial pour le peuple Serbe sont et demeurent inaltérables. Son plus grand vœu est d'assurer sa protection aux habitants paisibles, et surtout aux femmes, aux enfants et aux vieillards, dans les désordres suscités par quelques hommes sans scrupule qui cherchent à faire prévaloir leurs intérêts personnels au prix des plus grands malheurs que leur patrie puisse subir.

En conséquence, la Sublime Porte a transmis, à tous les commandants militaires de ses armées en campagne, l'ordre formel de sauvegarder et de protéger la vie, les biens, la famille, et les foyers de tous les habitants de la Serbie qui viendraient faire leur soumission aux autorités militaires ou qui livreraient leurs armes.

Les agressions ou les actes de violence qui se produiraient, soit de la part des soldats, soit de quelque autre part, contre la vie et les biens des habitants soumis, seront sommairement punis.

D'autre part, si parmi ces habitants il se trouvait des hommes qui, après avoir livré leurs armes ou fait leur soumission, se remettaient en hostilité contre nos troupes, ceux-là seraient traités avec toute la rigueur des lois militaires.

La présente Proclamation a pour objet de faire savoir aux Serbes que tous ceux qui voudraient s'en remettre en toute confiance de leur vie, de leurs biens et de leurs familles à la loyauté et à la clémence du Gouvernement Impérial, et qui seraient d'ailleurs fermement résolus à ne plus violer leurs engagements de soumission, devront, en premier lieu, s'adresser, soit en personne, soit par délégation, au commandant le plus voisin des troupes Impériales.

Quant à ceux qui s'obstineront à rester dans la voie de la révolte, et qui ne se rendront pas à l'appel de cette Proclamation, ils n'ont qu'à se résoudre à leur sort et à subir les conséquences de leur acte de rébellion.

Que la justice divine s'accomplisse !

(Translation.)

Servians !

YOU are the descendants of those ancestors who lived for more than five centuries in peace and security under the paternal ægis of the Imperial Ottoman Government. That Government loaded your ancestors with benefits; it has manifested the same sentiments of justice and kindness towards you, their descendants.

The Servians, on their side, in recognition of these favours, and while preserving their nationality, thought of nothing during a long lapse of time but the financial interests and the prosperity of their country.

The Servians listened to the counsels of their wise elders who had at heart the progress and welfare of their country; thus they maintained an unchanging loyalty to the Sublime Porte through all the wars and revolutions which have upset the world for the last forty years; they have lived in peace, and this judicious and honourable conduct of its faithful subjects was a constant source of satisfaction to the Imperial Government, who, having taken into their consideration each wish they expressed, has from time to time added new immunities to those they already enjoyed.

The Sublime Porte has wished especially to show that it makes no distinction in its sentiments between the Servians and its Mussulman or Christian subjects, and as a new proof of the confidence it reposed in them, it conferred on the Prince of Servia the command of the strongholds of that province.

Those at the head of affairs in Servia, however, setting at nought the wishes and peaceful instincts of the Servian people, have thought to make use of them as a docile tool to satisfy their personal and insatiable ambition; they have misled a portion of the Servian nation, and have induced them to give assistance to the rebels of the Herzegovina and Bosnia.

These men of evil omen responded to the representations of the Suzerain Court and the exhortations of the Great Powers by throwing the responsibility of their own personal acts upon the nation. They have thus betrayed the cause of the Servians, and have aggravated the position of the unfortunates they were pretending to help.

Latterly they have accepted the services of foreign officers and generals, and in pursuance of the plans of these persons, they have forced arms into the hands of the people of Servia, for the purpose of suddenly attacking and combating neighbours, with whom they have lived in peace for the last 500 years, and of burning and devastating their villages and homes.

Servia is an integral part of the Ottoman Empire, and its inhabitants are the subjects of the Imperial Government; the interests of both are closely bound up together. Could, then, this Government see with satisfaction Servia ruined by war? If forced to an armed occupation of its territory, it was only for the purpose of chastising the madmen who wished to encroach on our rights, and to put a stop to their criminal attempts.

The Government deplores deeply the misfortunes and losses sustained by the Servian people, which have resulted from the obstinate resistance with which a deluded fraction of this people has endeavoured to oppose its armies. It deplores the fact of the desolation by the calamities of war of an integral part of the Empire, and that so many women, children, old people, and inoffensive peasants should be reduced to such severe straits.

Those who assumed the reins of Government in Servia, and whose sacred duty

it was to serve the interests of their country, by ensuring to it the benefits of peace, and by labouring to increase the sources of its prosperity, have squandered the money of the people in armaments and warlike preparations. It is thus that unbridled ambition and bad passions have led them to employ to the prejudice of the people the savings that each had collected to support their family, children, and all that belonged to them.

Servians!

Be well assured that the Imperial Government looks on all its subjects without distinction as its children, both Mussulman and Christian. No father in the world wishes ill to his own offspring.

The military occupation of Servia cannot, therefore, have for its object the ruin of this beautiful province, and of its honest inhabitants; it is solely to punish those who, after an unjust and odious aggression, have tried to resist by arms the Imperial Government, and have deliberately drawn down so many undeserved ills on a peaceful population. As to the inoffensive inhabitants, they can count upon the effective protection and especial benevolence of the Sublime Porte.

Whatever aspect the case may take, the sympathies of the Imperial Government for the Servian people are and remain unalterable. Its dearest wish is to assure its protection to the peaceable inhabitants, and especially to the women, children, and old people during these disorders, stirred up by certain unscrupulous persons, who are seeking to forward their own personal interests at the expense of the greatest misfortunes their country can undergo.

Consequently, the Sublime Porte has transmitted formal orders to all the military commanders of its armies in the field, to preserve and protect the lives, property, families, and homes of all inhabitants of Servia who shall submit to the military authorities, or deliver up their arms.

Any assaults or acts of violence which take place, either on the part of the soldiers or others, against the lives and property of the inhabitants who submit, will be summarily punished.

On the other hand, if, among the inhabitants there are found any who, after giving up their arms or making their submission, shall resume hostilities against our troops, they will be treated with all the rigour of martial law.

The object of the present Proclamation is to make known to the Servians that all those who will submit in all confidence, their lives, property, and families, to the loyalty and mercy of the Imperial Government, and who are, moreover, firmly resolved not to violate again their engagements of submission, should, in the first instance, address themselves, either personally or through a delegate, to the nearest commander of the Imperial troops.

As to those who obstinately continue the revolt, and do not respond to the appeal of this Proclamation, they must make up their minds to their fate, and to meet with the deserts of their rebellious conduct.

May Divine justice be accomplished!

No. 76.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 25.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, August* 19, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copies of two further reports addressed by me to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, on the 15th instant and this day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 76.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, August* 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report that, within the past three or four weeks, several cases of gross assault by Turkish soldiers on British subjects (one of whom was an inmate of this Consulate) have been committed, all of which I brought under the notice

of the Pasha; but, as the assailants could not be pointed out, I was not able to obtain any redress.

On Wednesday last, however, Mr. Dillon, Accountant of the Varna Railway, was most grossly assaulted by the sergeant of a battalion that was bringing the five guns lately taken from the Servians from the landing-stage to the Government House.

As Mr. Dillon was able to point out the man, I next day brought the case under the notice of the Governor-General, who, after much unnecessary difficulty and delay, sent to inform me (yesterday) that the man had been condemned to eight days' imprisonment—a very inadequate punishment, considering the violence of the assault.

Having also heard of numerous similar acts by soldiers on Bulgarians, I addressed to the Pasha a letter of protest against the present utter absence of all military discipline here, and requested him to issue such orders as would prevent Her Majesty's subjects from being exposed to these brutalities.

I have, however, to-day heard of what in some way accounts for the present state of things, and which is that the present war is, in the Government paper here, openly termed "jihad," or "religious war."

I have also of late heard of a worse feeling amongst the Mussulmans against the Christians, which, I feel sure, is also accounted for by the employment by the authorities of the term "jihad;" and I am convinced that, at this moment, the slightest rising would very soon assume dimensions that would be difficult to put down. So wide-spread is this feeling amongst the Christians, that I have lately been several times asked by British subjects if it was safe to remain in the country.

I was yesterday myself witness to a gross act of brutality by a Turkish marine officer on a lad of about fourteen years of age.

This boy entered a small boat (a dingy) fastened to the quay, and just as he had arranged a few fishing-lines that he was using, the officer in question jumped into the boat, which happened to belong to one of the Government vessels here, and with a stout stick belaboured the poor lad most unmercifully over the head, and after throwing the lines and a few fish he had previously caught into the Danube, kicked him out of the boat, cursing and abusing him in the most shocking manner.

Although too far distant to be able to interfere in any way, I was so disgusted at the unwarranted violence of the officer, that I unofficially sent to inform the Pasha of the affair, and stated that I was ready to point out the two—officer and boy—and to testify to what I had seen. I hear to-day that the Pasha did nothing whatever.

This is a fair specimen of how the Bulgarians are now treated by many of the Turks.

Yesterday two more insurgents were tried by the Commission, which condemned one (a Chief) to death; but, as it appears some order has been received from the Porte on the subject, the sentence has been commuted to hard labour for life.

There is no doubt but that the Mussulmans in general in this vilayet look upon the present war as one of Mussulmans against Christians, and it is, in consequence, much to be regretted that in making mention of it the local newspaper, the "Tuna," should term it "jihad."

The word "giaour" was never used so much as it is at this moment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE

Inclosure 2 in No. 76.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, August* 19, 1876.

YOUR Excellency may have seen in the "Levant Herald" of the 14th instant, a report from the Correspondent at Widdin, in which it is stated that fields of standing corn in Servia have been fired by the irregular troops. I think it proper to inform your Excellency that I have been assured that persons arrived here from the spot declare this to be a fact, and my French colleague states that he has been informed that the fact is beyond all doubt.

The inconceivable malignity of these deeds needs no comment, and they alone show with what feelings these people are animated.

The Governor-General states that a considerable number of Servian peasants have come over to Belgradjik, and begged for the help and protection of the authorities, declaring that they were literally starving. The Pasha says that he has ordered that

they be distributed amongst the Christian villages in that quarter, and receive from the authorities what assistance may be necessary.

The number as yet, I believe, is about 1,500, and these state that many more must come over, or die from starvation.

The major part of those already arrived beg for grants of land, as they do not intend to return to Servia.

Every now and then reports reach this from many directions of robbery, accompanied by violence, and often by murder, and the perpetrators invariably turn out to be Circassians.

Only this morning, a British traveller stated to me that at one of the stations between this and Varna, the Station-master informed him of the murder, a few days ago, by Circassians, of six Bulgarians in a village not far from the station, which these people attacked.

The commerce of the province is at a standstill, as no Bulgarian dare circulate abroad without a Turkish guard, whom he has to pay heavily.

I have over and over again spoken to the Pasha on the subject, but to no purpose, but I am persuaded that if he received peremptory instructions from the Porte to order all his subordinates to at once disarm the few Circassians at present in their districts, and to hold each (subordinate) responsible as regards his district, these outrages would soon cease, and the present absence of all confidence in the public security that reigns in almost every part of the vilayet would gradually disappear.

It is only the culpable laxity of the authorities, from the Pasha downwards, that keeps up this untoward state of things, and what I have the honour to suggest could now be more easily done, as most of the Circassians are away with the army in the field.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

No. 77.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 25, 1876.*

THE Servian request for the good offices of the Powers has been forwarded to Count Andrassy, from whom an answer is expected to-morrow.

In reply to an inquiry from the Austrian Agent, Prince Milan Obrenovitch appears to have stated that he was not formally authorized by the Prince of Montenegro to act for him, but that His Highness had approved of the intended appeal to the Powers, and has expressed his readiness to participate in a negotiation for peace.

I have said to Baron Hofmann that, without being able to speak positively on the subject, I believed that, though the Porte would be willing to negotiate a peace, it might object to an armistice.

No. 78.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 25, 1876.*

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that I yesterday received a telegram from Mr. White at Belgrade informing me that, upon the invitation of Prince Milan, the Representatives of the six Guaranteeing Powers had met at the Palace in the presence of the Servian Foreign Minister.

His Highness begged them to apply to their respective Governments for their good offices to bring about a re-establishment of peace between Turkey and Servia, and to endeavour promptly to obtain an armistice. His Highness expressed a wish that Montenegro should also be included in this pacification.

Her Majesty's Government received this intelligence with great satisfaction, and I sent a reply to Mr. White by telegraph that I would lose no time in communicating with the other Powers for the purpose of obtaining a cessation of hostilities.

I accordingly telegraphed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Rome, stating that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to join

* Repeated to Embassies.

in any representation which may be made to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities, and instructing them to ascertain without delay the views of the Governments to which they are accredited.

In the meanwhile, your Excellency will point out to the Porte the extreme importance of not losing this opportunity of restoring peace.

Her Majesty's Government apprehend that, if hostilities are prolonged, the interference of some of the Powers is probable, the consequences of which might be fatal to the Turkish Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 79.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 25, 1876.*

THE Grand Vizier tells me that, according to reports of the Turkish Agents on the Danube, fully 15,000 Russians have passed into Servia.

It is stated by the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" that Russians were continually arriving at Galatz, and that on one occasion he saw them land in uniform.

No. 80.

Acting Vice-Consul Carroll to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 26.)

My Lord, *Poti, August 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the authorities at Tiflis have received orders from St. Petersburgh to amass troops upon the Turkish frontier.

This news is quite authentic and reliable, as I received it from a source which is to be depended upon.

The Russian troops in the Caucasus disposable for the above affair amount to at least 100,000 men, including cavalry, artillery, foot soldiers, and Cossacks.

A company of the latter arrived here some eight days since, and are now stationed a few versts in the interior waiting orders. They are a tall fine-looking set of men, but their horses seemed quite the contrary, though I have no doubt they are equal to a great amount of work.

For these last few days the whole talk of the Russians here, both civil and military, is of Russia going to war with Turkey, as they say their Government will not allow the latter Power to conquer Servia and the other Christian provinces now at war with her, which by the latest advices she appears to be doing.

In the meantime I will keep your Lordship fully advised as to all that is going on in this district as soon as I have convinced myself of the truth of the information received by me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. CARROLL.

No. 81.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 26.)

My Lord, *Paris, August 25, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes said to me this evening that he had received a telegram from the French Consul at Scutari, in Albania, stating that the Pasha had informed the Consuls that some Turks who had been mutilated by the Montenegrins were about to arrive there. The Pasha had, it seemed, at the same time invited the Consuls to come and see with their own eyes the condition of these unfortunate men.

The number of them appeared to be eleven.

The Consul asked the Duke whether he should take advantage of his holding the

* Repeated to Embassies.

appointment of French Consul in Montenegro, as well as at Scutari, in order to urge Prince Nikita to make every possible effort to put a stop to such barbarities.

The Duke mentioned to me that he had, on the other hand, received a report from Rutschuk, which confirmed in a most painful manner the accounts of the atrocities committed by the Turks in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No 82.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August* 26, 1876.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me, in reply to the communication which, by your Lordship's order, I have made to him, that the Italian Government is ready to join the Guaranteeing Powers in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities.

His Excellency declined, however, to make any suggestion as to the form which the application should take, saying that he should be ready to accept any which might be agreed upon by the other Powers. He insists upon the *status quo* being the basis of arrangement.

No. 83.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 26, 1876.

THE substance of your Lordship's telegram, acceding to the request of Servia, will be forwarded immediately to the Emperor and to Count Andrassy. Baron Hofmann, who has not yet received any communication from his Excellency on the subject, believes that he must have telegraphed direct to Belgrade and Constantinople.

No. 84.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August* 26, 1876.

M. DE BULOW informs me that he must take His Majesty's orders before giving a reply to your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday. He, personally, feels confident that the Emperor's desire for peace will prompt His Majesty to join the other Powers in applying to the Porte for a cessation of hostilities.

No. 85.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 26, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me to-day and made the following communication from his Government:—

"On the 24th of August Prince Milan assembled the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers of Servia, and declared to them that the Government of Servia, wishing to conform itself to the wishes of these same Powers, and anxious to see the re-establishment of good relations between the Sublime Porte and the Principality, solicits their good offices to bring about the cessation of hostilities. His Highness besides added that he considers it a duty of conscience at the same time to solicit the good offices of the

Powers for the cessation of hostilities between the Sublime Porte and Montenegro, inasmuch as a partial cessation of the war would not suffice to bring about the result proposed.

"Italy having taken steps, some days since, at Belgrade and Constantinople, in order to prepare the ground for negotiation, its adhesion to the demand of Prince Milan is consequently secured beforehand.

"Under these circumstances she is anxious to know the intentions of the British Cabinet in this matter, and the measures it proposes to take in order to arrive at a solution which, in the actual state of affairs, the whole world apparently desires."

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 86.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 26, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the advice you have given to the Turkish Minister with respect to the occupation of the Servian fortresses by Turkish troops, as reported in your Excellency's despatch of the 13th instant.

I have &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 87.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 26, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency the accompanying copies of two despatches from Mr. Monson, the first reporting a case in which the Turkish military forces are said to have fired upon a flag of truce sent by the Montenegrin General to obtain a respite of hostilities to allow of the burial for the dead who fell on the battle-field of Urbitza.*

The second, the execution of two Herzegovinian refugees from Dalmatia who were employed by the Turks to obtain provisions for their troops.†

I have to instruct your Excellency to bring these cases to the knowledge of the Porte. The acts reported in them, if correctly related, are contrary to all recognized usages of civilized warfare.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 88.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

My Lord, *Paris, August* 26, 1876.

IN execution of the instruction conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram of last night, I have informed the Duc Decazes that Her Majesty's Government are ready to unite with the other Powers in addressing the Porte in order to obtain a suspension of hostilities, and that they have instructed me to ask the opinion of the French Government on the subject.

The Duke has, on his part, informed me that he has received a telegram from General Leflô, the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, stating that on receiving the intelligence of the request made by Prince Milan for the good offices of the Powers, the Russian Government sent at once orders to their Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to urge the Porte to agree to an armistice.

The Duke tells me that he entirely agrees with Her Majesty's Government; that he thinks it of great importance that no time shall be lost, and that he shall send at once by telegraph orders to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to communicate with the Representatives of the other Guaranteeing Powers, in order to come to an understanding with them to apply to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities.

* No. 31. † No. 32.

The Duke says that he prefers the term "suspension of hostilities," which is used by your Lordship, to the term "armistice," because it is not unusual for the belligerent which has the upper hand to insist that the preliminaries of the definitive peace shall accompany an armistice, or that at all events certain definite conditions shall be laid down; while a mere suspension of hostilities may be agreed to more speedily, and with less formality.

I have already made the substance of this despatch known to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 89.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 27, 1876, 12·30 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to the Porte your telegram, announcing the request of Prince Milan for the mediation of the Powers, and conveying also the earnest warning of Her Majesty's Government against the danger of losing the present opportunity of making peace.

I did not see the Grand Vizier, but both the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Midhat Pasha perceive the necessity of being guided by the advice of Her Majesty's Government.

No 90.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 27, 1876, 1 P.M.*

IT is essential that the Representatives of the Powers should be informed as soon as possible whether, in the proposed suspension of hostilities, it is intended to include those with Montenegro as well as those with Servia. They should also be put in a position to answer the inquiry of the Porte whether our Governments are authorized by the Prince of Montenegro to treat in his name.

No. 91.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 27, 1876, 3 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to Baron Hofmann the substance of the answers which were received yesterday to your Lordship's telegrams of the 25th instant, from Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris and Rome. His Excellency is still without any answer from Count Andrassy.

In explanation of this circumstance Baron Hofmann spoke to me of an interruption of the telegraphic communication with Hungary.

No 92.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 26, 1876, 11·30 P.M.*

I HAVE informed the Russian Government, as instructed by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, that Her Majesty's Government are ready to join in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities. Prince Gortchakow informs me in reply that he has instructed Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to support any such application.

No. 93.

Acting Vice-Consul Dickson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

My Lord, *Aleih, Damascus, August* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I had the honour to address to his Excellency Sir Henry Elliot, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the general state of affair in Damascus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Acting Vice-Consul Dickson to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Damascus, August* 5, 1876.

IN continuation of my former despatches on the general state of Syria, and feeling at Damascus in consequence of the late events in Turkey, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that nothing has as yet occurred here to cause anxiety or disturb the public tranquillity.

Although since the massacre of 1860 the minds of the Christian population have been prone to take alarm at anything that might tend to create disaffection amongst the Mahommedan sects, or excite their religious feelings, yet the Herzegovina insurrection, the change of the Sultan, and the breaking out of the war in Servia, have passed off without causing that amount of fear and anxiety that might have been expected. The calling out of the redifs, moreover, was looked upon as likely to cause great disaffection amongst the people; but the call was responded to in a quiet and orderly manner, and without feelings or expressions of fanaticism,—especially as it was well known that the men were being collected for a war against a Christian State of the Turkish Empire.

Although the departure of the troops has diminished the garrison at Damascus to a considerable extent, yet I am assured, from reliable sources, that the whole number of the military men available in case of need amounts to seven battalions. Two battalions of redifs left Damascus for the seat of the war, each battalion consisting as near as possible of 800 men. Fifteen battalions have been taken away from the whole vilayet, and it is estimated that twenty more can be collected, if orders should be received for their departure. About twenty battalions of regular troops remain in all the vilayet,—consisting of eleven of infantry, four of cavalry, and five of artillery.

As regards the subscription asked in aid of the war, the result of the invitation for assistance has not been so satisfactory as was anticipated. Up to the present, 3,000 Turkish pounds have been collected in Damascus, but it is expected the sum will amount to 5,000 Turkish pounds. From the whole vilayet the subscription is estimated to reach 10,000 Turkish pounds.

The telegrams from the seat of the war are daily posted up in places of public resort, for the information of the people; and although I am told that some of them are couched in terms such as might excite fanaticism against the rebels as infidels, yet I have seen nothing that would justify me in reporting to your Excellency the fear of an outbreak of religious feeling of one sect against another. Mussulman and Christian appear to have equally a desire for peace and tranquillity, and are anxious to see a speedy termination of the war. The collecting of the redifs has certainly created some hardships amongst the poorer families of the place, and caused a depression of business; but the burden has been borne patiently, and the complaints have been far less than was expected.

It is to be trusted that matters will continue as quietly as hitherto, but I shall not fail to report at once to your Excellency any alteration that might occur in the state of the country or feelings of the people.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 94.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August 15, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my Report to Sir Henry Elliot dated the 11th instant, with a copy of its inclosure, relative to the state of affairs in Thessaly, Macedonia, and Monastir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No 94.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, August 11, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Excellency, copy of a letter which I have received this morning from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter in Thessaly.

Apparently tranquillity prevails in the Province of Salonica: no recent acts of brigandage have been reported from the interior of this province; and I am glad to say that the alarm caused among the Christians in the neighbouring districts by the presence of great numbers of Bashi-Bazouks or volunteers has subsided, thanks to the energetic measures which have been adopted by the provincial authorities to keep these mercenary troops under control.

I regret to say, however, that in the province of Monastir affairs are not so satisfactory; a recent letter which I have received from my correspondent there states that although the town is quiet, there is a notable increase of crime in that Pashalik; that a feeling of alarm and insecurity is felt by the Christian inhabitants in town and country; that the highways of communication between Monastir and Perlepé and other principal towns in that province are unsafe, and that the native merchants are afraid to attend the fair at Perlepé, which is about to open, owing to the numerous bands of robbers which infest the country.

My correspondent states that a few days ago, a band of fifty Albanian brigands attacked the house of a certain Giorgios Litzas, the principal inhabitant of Magarood, about two hours distant from Monastir, killed him and his brother, and carried off 200*l.* and all his valuables.

The victims made a determined stand, and had killed three of the brigands before they were murdered by the ruffians.

The authorities sent in pursuit a party of picked men, who have succeeded in capturing eleven of the band.

From all I learn from persons who have recently arrived here from Monastir, it seems that the present Acting Governor-General there, in the room of Dervish Pasha, who has gone to the front, is not able, from old age and want of energy and vigour, to deal with the lamentable state of things in that province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 94.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Larissa, August 10, 1876.*

THERE are occasional complaints made of larceny on the part of the troops, and squabbles between them and Christians of course are not wanting; but we do not hear of excesses or acts of serious violence, and, all considered, their conduct is better than could well be expected under the circumstances. This, in a great measure, is due to the active vigilance of the Commander, Ibrahim Pasha, a nephew of the present Generalissimo, Abdul Kerim Pasha, who is unceasing in seconding the goodwill and efforts of the Beys and local authorities towards the maintenance of good order and tranquillity.

Two companies of Redifs were recently despatched from the camp here, where the bulk of the force in Thessaly is quartered, to Ayah, owing to fears of the appearance of

brigands in that vicinity, but the alarm does not appear to have been verified, nor do we learn of any other brigand movements of consequence in other directions to endanger the safety of general communication.

At present the authorities are engaged in carrying out an order lately come from Janina for raising a supply of horses and mules for taansport service of the army acting in Montenegro. The demand, which requires an equipped animal to be furnished by every fifty houses throughout the province, seems to meet difficulty in execution, and has created universal dissatisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SUTER.

No. 95.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

My Lord, *Adrianople, August* 19, 1876.

FOLLOWING up my report on the recent Bulgarian insurrection, and the excesses committed by the Turkish irregular troops against the Christian population of this vilayet, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship with some further particulars in connection with those events.

The following details connected with the destruction of Klissoura (Prassadin-Dervent) were related to me by some inhabitants of that village during my visit there.

On the 2nd of May last, some unknown persons entered the village in disguise, and, after spreading the rumour that the Turks were going to massacre them, they disappeared.

On the 8th of May, Toussoun Bey of Carlovo, at the head of a numerous band of Bashi-Bazouks, surrounded the village and began firing. They set on fire some shepherds' huts, and so alarmed the people that they left all their property, and fled for their lives. Toussoun Bey and his irregulars, instead of pursuing the guilty, and those in arms, attacked the village, and after plundering everything they found, and killing, so far as I have been able to ascertain, some 200 persons (chiefly women and children unable to make their escape with the rest), they set the village on fire, reducing it to a heap of ashes, and hence they were forced to wander in the mountains, and then took refuge in the neighbouring village of Avrat-Alan.

When the regular troops entered this latter place, they arrested the men, and sent them to Philippopoli, of whom five died on the road or in prison. Soon after, another Pasha (Mir-Alaï) came to Avrat-Alan, and took out of the village all the women and children belonging to Klissoura, together with the men who were left, under pretext that he was going to send them to their village, but instead of this, they were exposed to the excesses of the troops, who, I was told, stripped them to search for money, &c.; everything found upon them was taken away, and then they were told to go back to Avrat-Alan.

Later on, another Pasha visited Avrat-Alan, who conveyed them peaceably to Klissoura, where he left some troops for their protection. He told them, at the same time, to take the necessary measures to rebuild their houses, and promised to send them a Mudir, with a few zaptiehs, to guard them.

On the arrival of this functionary, he called together all the women whose husbands were either imprisoned or dispersed, and subjected them to fresh plunderings, taking from them everything they had saved from the previous predatory incursions. On arriving at their village, they told me that they found many new graves opened, and the bodies taken out, apparently for the purpose of seeking for valuables.

Two cases out of several were related to me at Klissoura to prove the massacre of women and children. The wife of Nicholas Kozarin, who had been recently confined, was killed, with her four children, an old woman, and a servant girl. Their bodies, I was also told, were subsequently found in a well—that of the baby horribly gashed. The wife of Christo Isantchoff was killed, as well as her two daughters, one of whom had not long before been confined of twins; both babies, together with one of the children of the second daughter, were cut into pieces, whilst the fourth child of this family, a little girl, was carried off, and, on being claimed by the father, Ivan Staneff, from a gipsy woman of Carlova, its restitution was refused, unless he could produce testimony.

This village has lost, among other property, some 50,000 aschins of abba (37,000 yards), a coarse woollen cloth manufactured for sale; upwards of 900 boilers used for distilling

attar of roses; this year's produce, estimated at about 9,000*l.*, half of which amount was paid in advance, and is therefore due at present by the villagers. As regards the loss in household goods and furniture, it is difficult to give an estimate. At the time of these occurrences, I am informed, about two-thirds of the people were away on business.

I was unable to visit Batak, owing to the difficulties of the road, but I am informed by the inhabitants of the neighbouring village, Peshtera, that the destruction and loss of property in the village of Batak has also been very great. This place, it appears, possessed some 260 saw-mills for preparing planks, and carried on a considerable trade in timber with Smyrna and other places, and paid to Government an annual revenue in this article alone of some 4,000*l.* All these mills have been destroyed, while upwards of 7,000 head of cattle carried off by the Bashi-Bazouks. The Government is now very active in giving every assistance in restoring all the stolen cattle, not only to this village, but to all who have been plundered of their animals.

The following case, as regards torture, was related to me while in Peshtera by the sufferer himself. On the 7th of June last, Pope Peter Patcharutoff, one of the two priests of Peshtera, a large village at the foot of the Rhodofa Mountains, was apprehended, and interrogated the same day at the residence of the Kaïmakam. He was accused of being implicated in the recent disturbances. As he indignantly denied the charge, he was on the following day sent under an escort of ten Bashi-Bazouks and two zaptiehs to Tatar-Bazardjik. No sooner out of the village, when he was conducted to a spot where the dead bodies of some Bulgarians lay unburied, and threatened that unless he made the revelations required of him, he too would be put to death, and his body added to those he saw before him.

As he appeared to hesitate, he was laid down on the ground, when he was beaten with a stick, and threatened with knives, and forced, for the sake of his life to sign a statement to the effect that he, together with five other Bulgarians of Peshtera, had taken part in the revolutionary movement.

He was then taken to Tatar-Bazardjik, where, on being examined, he denied the truth of the statement, and narrated the circumstances under which it was extorted from him. From Tatar-Bazardjik he was, on the 10th of June, sent to Philippopoli. As he persisted in the denial of the truth of his forced declaration, he was for eight hours, he told me, chained to the prison window. The torture was then modified. He was then put into the "poluse," a sort of cupboard, as far as I can understand, where it is impossible to stretch one's limbs, and therefore sleep is out of the question. For five days, he told me, he had to endure this sort of torture, at the end of which he was again examined; and, as he repudiated more strongly than ever his extorted statement, and declared he was innocent of all complicity in the late disturbances, he was set free in the prison, from which he was not released until the 1st of July.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 96.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

My Lord, *Bosna Serai, August* 19, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, dated the 16th instant, regarding affairs in the Herzegovina since the battle of Urbitza. I would particularly call your Lordship's attention to the gratuitous destruction of property effected by the Montenegrins during their retreat, which, though in no way advantageous to them, will greatly add to the distress of both Christians and Turks when the war comes to an end, and will render the return of the refugees almost impossible.

No more recent news has been received here regarding the war in Servia than that which is contained in the European journals up to the 11th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Sir, *Mostar, August* 16, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that since the defeat of Moukhtar Pasha at Urbitza, there seems to have been a complete lull in affairs in this Province. The Montenegrins have made no attempt to follow up or profit by their victory, and the Turks are not yet in a position to again assume the offensive. Jellal-ed-din Pasha arrived here on the 6th instant, and left again on the 13th, with five battalions, for Stolatz; but it is not yet known whether he has made any further advance. The expedition of ten battalions to the Herzegovina from the corps d'armée under Dervish Pasha was announced nearly a fortnight ago, but they have only to-day arrived at Focha, whence they will probably advance by way of Gatzko.

Moukhtar Pasha's plans are not known here, but it is believed that, when these reinforcements arrive, which, together with the division commanded by Jellal-ed-din Pasha, and the troops he has with him in Trebigné, will bring up the total of his available forces to about 10,000 men, he will again attempt an advance on Baniani, where the main body of the Montenegrins under the command of the Prince in person, are said to be encamped. Small bands of the enemy—Montenegrins or insurgents—constantly make their appearance in different parts of the country; but as the Turks have not latterly quitted their intrenched or fortified positions, there have been no encounters whatever. The authorities appear to be most imperfectly informed as to the whereabouts of the Montenegrins, and it is only a supposition that their chief force is at Baniani, where it is known, however, that the Prince still has his headquarters.

In a former despatch I mentioned that the Montenegrins during their advance had committed no acts of pillage and burnt no houses; but during their retreat they seemed to have followed quite an opposite policy, and it is said that throughout the districts of Nevessin, Gatzko, Stolatz, Ljubinjé, and Bilek, there is not a single house or building left standing beyond the precincts of the five chief towns. All the Mussulmans of the rural districts have taken refuge within these towns, and the prevailing misery and disease is described as appalling.

The garrison of Metokia, the chief town of Gatzko, is said to be dying at the rate of twenty per diem. In the above-mentioned districts little enough had been sown this year; but even that little is lost, as the presence of the Montenegrins has prevented the possibility of any harvest operations. At the present moment the Government is feeding the population, and, with the approach of winter, famine seems inevitable. Of the 3,000,000 okes of grain sent to the Herzegovina in the spring, for the sustenance of the refugees, who it was hoped would return, nearly two-thirds have been already absorbed in this way, and the Government will scarcely be in a position to obtain further supplies when the remaining 1,000,000 okes shall have been consumed.

Should the war with Montenegro be brought to a speedy close—an event which, to judge by the dilatoriness displayed in all military matters, seems highly improbable—it is difficult to foresee what is to be the future of this Province, or how, under Turkish rule, it can ever recover from its present deplorable condition.

The landed proprietors are so embittered towards the Rayah peasants, by the losses they have sustained, that re-establishment between them of satisfactory relations seems almost impossible; and now it can hardly even be hoped that the refugees, under whatever circumstances, will return in any considerable numbers to their former homes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

No. 97.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(Extract.) *Ragusa, August* 20, 1876.

THE Russian Acting Consul-General read to me yesterday a telegram which he had just received from an official Montenegrin source, and which describes the defeat of the Turks at Medun on the 14th instant as most complete. They are stated to have been driven back to Podgoritza, with a loss of between 4,000 and 5,000 killed, but the counting of the dead had not been completed at the dispatch of the telegram. The Montenegrin loss is given at 400 killed, and 250 wounded, which in itself proves that the

combat was sanguinary. I should imagine that the Montenegrin force engaged did not exceed 8,000 men.

With reference to the Turkish loss, it must be recollected that the Montenegrins give no quarter; the Prince having now issued orders that no prisoners are to be taken, so that every wounded man who falls into the hands of the mountaineers has his throat cut immediately.

I have seen another telegram, from a very credible official source, which contains similar details.

No. 98.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 19, 1876.

I THIS morning received your Lordship's telegram, desiring me to lose no opportunity of impressing upon the Porte the necessity of an early pacification, in order to avoid the danger of a hostile intervention by some Power if the war is protracted.

I have already informed your Lordship that I was endeavouring to open the eyes of the Porte to the necessity of this, but I have now the honour to inclose the copy of an instruction to Mr. Sandison, by which I directed him four days ago to renew my representations.

This instruction was written before the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 14th, stating that an application from Prince Milan for the good offices of the Powers would be favourably received by Her Majesty's Government.

Although I was strongly of opinion that the negotiations for the conditions of peace should be direct between Turkey and Servia, I gave it as only my own personal view, not being at that time in a position to speak on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, but the telegram received to-day will add greatly to the weight of the arguments I employed.

I have forwarded the substance of it to the Porte, and will duly inform your Lordship of the manner in which it is received, but it is likely that the defeat sustained from the Montenegrins near Podgoritza will render the Turkish Government more than ever determined to obtain a striking success over the Servians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Instruction to Mr. Sandison to urge on Porte the necessity of concluding Peace with Servia.

MR. SANDISON will take every opportunity of pressing upon the Porte how important it is that peace should be made with Servia at the earliest possible moment.

The real danger to Turkey at present to be feared lies in the possibility of an intervention in some shape or form by the European Governments; but the moment seems at hand when the Porte, by an exhibition of promptness and moderation may be able to avoid it.

The Servians are already discouraged, and in their wish for peace they may address themselves to the great Powers to invoke their mediation with the Porte. They should be encouraged, on the contrary, to address themselves direct to the Sultan's Government, and this they will only do if they are assured that the Porte will treat them with moderation and indulgence.

The Porte has proved to the Servians and to Europe that it is able to crush the Principality, and, by showing the generosity to be expected from a great Power, it will raise itself in the esteem of other nations, without the possibility of its action being attributed to weakness.

The lesson which the Servians have received when there were so many circumstances in their favour, will be a more effectual guarantee against any fresh attack from them than anything else that could be obtained.

The Porte may wish to insist upon resuming the right of maintaining garrisons in the Servian fortresses, relying upon the terms of the Treaties, without taking into account what may possibly be the present views of some of the Cabinets on the subject.

Peace with Servia must inevitably be followed, very quickly, by the suppression of the

insurrection in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and by the discomfiture of Montenegro; but if, by insisting upon the questions of the garrisons, the war in Servia was prolonged, the struggle in the Herzegovina might continue till the autumn, with a constantly increasing chance of an ultimate foreign intervention.

The question for the Porte to consider is whether the benefit to be expected from trying to recover the fortresses is as great as the danger to be run by protracting the war.

Mr. Sandison will give these as merely my own personal views upon the position of things.

Therapia, August 15, 1876.

No. 99.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 20, 1876.

IT is asserted by the Porte that during the time that the Servians occupied certain portions of the Turkish territory they burned 160 villages, chiefly inhabited by Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 100.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a statement, published by authority in the Turkish papers, contradicting an accusation made by the Servians that the irregulars attached to the Turkish army were provided with petroleum for the purpose of burning the villages on their route.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Newspaper Extract.

LES Représentants de la Sublime Porte à l'étranger ont transmis aux journaux la communication suivante :—

"(Officiel.) "*Constantinople, le* 12 *Août*, 1876.

"Les Agents de la Serbie, par ordre de leur Gouvernement, essaient de propager en Europe la croyance que les troupes Impériales incendient volontairement les villages Serbes, et vont même jusqu'à prétendre que les auxiliaires Circassiens se munissent de sceaux remplis de pétrole qu'ils portent sur le champ de bataille, afin de mieux accomplir leur œuvre de destruction.

"Cette double accusation, aussi ridicule qu'invraisemblable, est absolument controuvée; si quelques villages Serbes ont été atteints par le feu, ce n'a été que par l'ardeur du combat et par accident, tandis que depuis le commencement des hostilités soixante villages situés sur le territoire Ottoman et habités par des Chrétiens aussi bien que par des Musulmans ont été incendiés par les Serbes."

(Translation.)

THE Representatives of the Sublime Porte abroad have sent the following communication to the papers :—

"(Official.) "*Constantinople, August* 12, 1876.

"Servian agents, by order of their Government, endeavour to spread throughout Europe the belief that the Imperial troops wilfully set fire to the Servian villages, and they go so far as to pretend that the Circassian auxiliaries are provided with vessels filled with petroleum, which they carry into action, so as to better accomplish their work of destruction.

"This double accusation, as ridiculous as it is improbable, is absolutely false. If some Servian villages have been set on fire, it was only in the heat of an engagement and by accident, whereas since the commencement of hostilities, sixty villages on Ottoman territory, and inhabited both by Christians and by Mussulmans, have been fired by the Servians."

No. 101.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a Memorandum drawn up by the Reverend Mr. Hopkins, a Fellow and Tutor of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, on the condition of the Servian hospitals on the south-western frontier, which presents some interest as representing a state of things in striking contrast to the care received by the sick and wounded in great wars of late.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Memorandum by the Rev. Mr. Hopkins on the Condition of Servian Hospitals.

Belgrade, August 10, 1876.

THE first hospital that I had the opportunity of seeing was at Krusevats. The seventy or eighty wounded there were in the hands of a surgeon, and were distributed in two buildings a mile and a-half apart, according to some fanciful distinction in the nature of their wounds. As there were only a surgeon and his assistant (the ordinary practitioners of the town), the distance was very inconvenient, and the attempted separation of the cases led to much muddle and delay, for men, on their arrival, were frequently sent from one place to another two or three times before it was finally decided where they were to be received. In one case a train of waggons arrived before 10 in the morning, but not a single patient was carried to the buildings till after 5 P.M.

Not more than half the patients are provided with beds. A number of those on the floor had not even so much as a blanket.

Every kind of medical store was either entirely wanting or extremely deficient. The general superintendence of the whole arrangement was under the charge of a young advocate of Belgrade. He appeared quite ignorant of and unequal to the duty he had undertaken.

He would not even attempt to do anything to recover order and quiet in the wards, putting off the time for exertion till an ambulance corps with experienced nurses arrived. Before leaving Krusevats I saw this ambulance, and it certainly did not seem likely to do much to improve the condition of the wounded. The first day after their arrival was spent in sitting, smoking, and drinking. No doubt a great part of this neglect is due to the character of the surgeon in charge. He is, unfortunately, unfit for his heavy duty, and those about him do very much as he does.

The hospital at Chachah is distributed into four or five buildings, but as they are at no great distance apart no inconvenience follows. There were altogether about forty wounded there at the time of my visit. The charge is there left entirely to the resident medical man. He is extremely diligent and attentive, and seemed to be doing fairly well. But he was, however, very anxious that it should not be supposed that the charge he had was of his seeking, and he at once told me that he was not altogether equal to it. In this hospital there were beds for all, and drugs could be obtained in the town. Everything else was wanting. The bandages were old and filthy rags begged from the natives and only given because they were unfit for any use.

In Ivanitsa the hospital is under the charge of a very competent man. The accommodation is extremely poor. Though the staff does its best to keep the room clean, the utter insuitability of the buildings and the apathy of the civil authorities, to a great degree defeat their cause. In one case the back part of a large room in a coffee house was used for beds, while the room was still in use as a public-house.

There is a good and airy building at Valievo, but unfortunately there the surgeon is a drunkard. On the occasion of my visit, before noon, he was almost too tipsy to speak.

I went round the wards with a young volnnteer, on whom the whole charge really rests, and then I found out that he had done as much as he was able to assist the patients. He had no surgical knowledge and no hospital experience.

At Yagodina there is a small hospital under the charge of a medical student. He neither had nor pretended to the smallest knowledge of his business.

At Ub six beds are provided at present. These are under the charge of a volunteer, but appear to be only used to afford the wounded passing through the town a few hours rest. They are then sent on to Valievo. The camp hospital is not at all well found at Yavor. There seemed to me to be a great want of material. I imagine also that great pressure is felt there for surgical aid, as on the day before the battle of the 24th several assistants were hurried by telegraph to the camp.

Only in the hospitals at Belgrade and Oujitsa are adequate supplies of surgeons, nurses, and medical stores to be found. That this should be the case at Belgrade, under the eyes of the Princes and the highest Government officials and their wives, was to be expected. No small credit is, however, due to Dr. le Wich and his colleagues, Messrs. Baker and Collingbridge (both Englishmen) for the present state of things at Oujitsa. With much vexation and opposition, in less than three days they transformed the filthy hole handed over to them into a decent comfortable hospital. They have, moreover, a supply of all sorts of stores.

I do not hesitate to say that their hospital is already a model for every other hospital in this country.

At Kavanowass there was a certain amount of preparation for the reception of the wounded but no fittings for a hospital.

A number of experienced surgeons are urgently required, and not less necessary are assistants, men and women, of force and character, who will be able to exercise some control, not only over the patients, but also over the crowd by whom they will be surrounded. The simplest sorts of surgical stores are wanted. It is not worth while to bring from a distance heavy goods like baths, tables, &c. These can be had or are provided on the spot. Linen for bandages, sponges, Liebig, and brandy must be brought as they are not to be had there.

There seems to exist no medical or other authority to secure a proper supervision of the hospitals. The local authorities, in every case, seemed quite without interest in the matter. Too often they appeared only too ready to do anything to cause trouble and inconvenience to the surgeon in charge.

In every case it is desirable that the hospital should be entirely independent of the town authorities.

Nothing but vexation and annoyance can possibly arise out of any relations between persons educated as gentlemen, and the ignorant and brutal animal who is to be found playing the part of Pasha in every little town in Servia.

In times of peace medical aid is, I should imagine, rather scarce in the country districts of Servia. Now that all the available surgeons are required for the war, the inconvenience and suffering is very great. They have large districts at present where no sort of assistance can be obtained. Should a sufficient supply of foreign surgeons present itself now, the men in the hospitals at present would be relieved from duties for which they are unfit, to return to the work for which, by experience, they have acquired some little fitness.

In my visits to the hospitals I could not fail to observe the entire absence of all cases of great apparent severity.

There were cases, no doubt severe enough, and many, no doubt, were helpless; but they were invariably of such a character that it was possible for the unfortunates, without any aid, to find their way back to the camp.

I have spoken about this with many people, and I have invariably found that their observations have justly agreed with mine. I am convinced that there is no sort of organization for bringing in the wounded. After the fight of the 24th I had the opportunity of seeing what really occurred. In the course of the afternoon of the 24th, and on the two following days, the men came in slowly, as best they were able. The only one brought in was brought in by his wife, who, missing him on the evening of the fight, was happy enough to be able to find him, and bring him to the camp in the course of the following morning.

To meet my inquiries about the arrival of those who were too severely wounded to help themselves, after two days I was told that the Turks fired on the men detailed for their transport.

Had I, at the hospitals, found such cases as I was then looking for, I might have believed this. I confess, however, that at present I am unable to do so.

No. 102.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

My Lord, *Berlin, August 26, 1876.*

IN conformity with your Lordship's instructions, conveyed to me by telegraph yesterday, I informed M. de Bülow that, in consequence of the application made to the Guaranteeing Powers by Prince Milan, through their Representatives at Belgrade, seeking their good offices for the re-establishment of peace between the Porte and Servia, your Lordship had directed me to inform the German Government that Her Majesty's Government was ready to join the other Powers in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities, and wished to be informed of the views entertained by the Imperial Government on the subject.

It appears that the information received by M. de Bülow with reference to Prince Milan's application was not so explicit as that conveyed in your Lordship's telegram; and his Excellency, in thanking me for communicating with him on the subject, said that he was now in a better position to report to the Emperor on this matter, and take His Majesty's pleasure, without which he could not positively state the views of the German Government. Nevertheless, his Excellency said, desirous as I know His Majesty to be for the re-establishment of peace, I feel confident that the Emperor will be happy to see his Government associate themselves to that of the other Guaranteeing Powers with so desirable an object, adding that he hoped on Monday next to be in a position to communicate to me officially the readiness of the German Government to join the Governments of the Guaranteeing Powers in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities. This delay, I believe, is mainly caused by the matter having to be referred to Varzin for the Chancellor to instruct upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 103.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 28, 1876.*

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon by appointment, and read to me a telegram received from his Government, stating that the Russian Government had inquired whether it was proposed that the armistice to be recommended by the Powers should be general, and should apply to all places where the war was going on. The Russian Government considered that it would be better that this should be the case.

The Italian Government had replied that, in their opinion also, the armistice should be general, and should include Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 104.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 28, 1876.*

AFTER making to me the communication mentioned in my preceding despatch, the Italian Ambassador read to me a second telegram which he had received, bearing date of yesterday, the substance of which runs as follows:—

Signor Melegari stated that three days had now passed since the request of the Prince of Servia for the good offices of the Powers had been made, but he had not as yet been able to ascertain what course was to be taken upon it. The German and Austrian Ambassadors at Constantinople had apparently received no instructions; nothing had been done to put a stop to the war; and military events might at any moment change the position, and render the work of mediation more difficult. He thinks that answers should at once be obtained to the following questions:—

Is the demand for a suspension of hostilities to be made by the Powers collectively?

Should it come from them directly, or should the request for an armistice be made by the leaders of the Servian and Montenegrin forces, the action of the Powers being limited to supporting the request?

Is the Prince of Montenegro to be asked whether he accepts the mediation of the Powers?

Are discussions to take place for the settlement of the preliminaries of peace, or merely in the first instance, for the arrangement of an armistice.

I told General Menabrea that I would state to him the views of Her Majesty's Government on these several points, so far as I could speak at the present moment.

As regards the request for an armistice, I was inclined to think that it would be best that it should come from the Powers collectively, but I was ready, on this point, to defer to the opinion of other Governments. I thought that the form in which the request came, whether from the Powers directly, or from the Servian and Montenegrin Generals, supported by the Powers, was a matter of secondary importance. I quite agreed that it would be desirable to ascertain whether the Prince of Montenegro was prepared to become a party to the negotiations. As far as we were concerned, however, there was some difficulty in communicating with him, as England had no agent accredited to His Highness. It would be easier for the Austrian or Russian Government to learn his views.

I thought that no time should be lost in discussing and settling, as far as possible, the preliminaries of peace. Some points of detail, such, possibly, as the constitution to be given to the insurgent provinces, might, if necessary, be reserved for subsequent deliberation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 105.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1876.

I HAVE received Mr. Reade's despatch to your Excellency, respecting execution of Bulgarian insurgents. If not already done, your Excellency should make a representation to the Porte against the cruelty displayed in carrying out these sentences.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 106.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1876.

YOUR Excellency should call the attention of the Porte to the statement contained in Mr. Reade's despatch of the 15th instant, of assaults on British subjects and other cruelties committed by Turkish officials, and especially with reference to the alleged use, in an official document, of language giving a religious character to the war.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 107.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1876.

AS it is most desirable that Montenegro should be included in the proposed armistice, and as it is believed that the Prince would not object to treat, although no official intimation to that effect has reached Her Majesty's Government, I have to instruct your Excellency to endeavour to ascertain what are His Highness' wishes on the subject.

I have also instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to inquire of the Russian Government whether the Prince's views are known to them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Substance telegraphed.

No. 108.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government are anxious to know whether the Prince of Montenegro is desirous to treat for an armistice; and I have to inform you that the Porte are taking steps to ascertain whether His Highness authorizes negotiations on his behalf.

I shall be glad to hear from your Excellency whether the Russian Government is prepared to advise him to do so.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 109.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government think that it would be highly desirable that Montenegro should be included in the proposed armistice, but they have as yet received no positive announcement that the Prince is disposed to treat. It will be necessary, in the first instance, to ascertain His Highness' willingness to do so, which Her Majesty's Government are disposed to consider probable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 110.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)

My Lord, *Rome, August* 26, 1876.

IN accordance with the instructions which I had the honour to receive from your Lordship this morning by telegraph, I informed Signor Melegari, Minister for Foreign Affairs, that Her Majesty's Government having received an application from Prince Milan for their good offices towards the re-establishment of peace, they were prepared to join in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities, and I asked his Excellency to inform me of the views of His Italian Majesty's Government on the subject.

His Excellency replied that the Italian Government were ready to associate themselves with the other Guaranteeing Powers in asking the Porte for a suspension of hostilities with a view to the re-establishment of peace.

I stated that Prince Milan had added that it was desirable that Montenegro should be included in the pacification, and his Excellency said that the information forwarded to Her Majesty's Government appeared to be identical with that which he had received, and which had afforded him great satisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 111.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)

My Lord, *Paris, August* 28, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes read to me this morning a telegram, dated half-past 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, in which the French Ambassador at Constantinople inquires whether Montenegro, as well as Servia, should be included in the suspension of hostilities, for which application is to be made to the Porte, and observes that neither he himself, nor any of his colleagues, have received instructions from their Governments on this point.

The Duke told me that he was very desirous of being made acquainted, as soon as possible, with the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

In answer to a question from me, he said that he himself was decidedly of opinion

that Montenegro should be included at once in the application to be made to the Porte. He thought that this would be advantageous to the Porte itself, because it would tend to arrest the hostilities in the quarter in which the Turkish arms were less prosperous, as well as in that in which they were successful. On the other hand, as the object of the European Powers must be to put a stop to bloodshed everywhere as soon as possible; they would in any case have to press, at no distant date, for a suspension of hostilities with Montenegro; and it seemed to be better in all respects to do so at once.

The Powers were, he thought, fully authorized to act immediately by the language of the Prince of Servia, who, although not alleging that he was formally empowered to act for the Prince of Montenegro, had nevertheless undertaken to answer for him ("s'était fait fort de lui").

The Duke begged me to ask your Lordship's opinion as soon as possible, and accordingly I did myself the honour to send you a telegram as soon as I got home.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 112.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 29.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 27 *Août,* 1876.

LA Sublime Porte a été sollicitée de divers côtés à l'effet d'exprimer son opinion relativement à l'application de la Convention de Genève à la guerre actuelle. Le Gouvernement Impérial apprécie à leur juste valeur les sentiments d'humanité qui ont inspiré ces démarches; il aurait voulu même les devancer, s'il n'avait tenu qu'à lui de mettre tout d'abord de côté les objections de principes, aussi bien que les difficultés pratiques que soulève l'extension de l'acte en question à la lutte insurrectionnelle que la rébellion du Monténégro et de la Serbie est venue compliquer d'une manière si malheureuse. A notre avis, la Convention de Genève n'avait eu, et n'a en vue que les guerres internationales. D'un autre côté, on comprend aisément que nous hésitons à assumer la responsabilité d'une stricte observance de cette Convention, lorsque la nature même de la lutte irrégulière met forcément en jeu des forces militaires où l'élément irrégulier participe dans une forte proportion.

Néanmoins, obéissant exclusivement à des considérations d'humanité, et afin de donner une preuve éclatante des sentiments qui animent le Gouvernement Impérial, nous avons déclaré que, sous la réserve expresse que la Convention de Genève ne saurait être considérée comme obligatoire dans le cas actuel, nous consentions pour cette fois à respecter les principes qui ont inspiré cette Convention, et à mettre tous nos soins à ce qu'on pût bénéficier en pratique de ses dispositions dans les limites du possible et pour autant que cela dépendra de nous. Veuillez, tout en établissant nos réserves, justifiées par la nature même de la Convention et par le caractère de la lutte engagée, porter la décision de la Sublime Porte à la connaissance du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité. Vous aurez à répondre dans le même sens à tous ceux que la chose pourrait concerner.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 27, 1876.

THE Sublime Porte has been asked from different quarters to express its opinion respecting the application of the Geneva Convention to the existing war. The Imperial Government appreciates at their right value the sentiments of humanity which have prompted these inquiries; it would even have wished to anticipate them, if it had only depended on them at once to put on one side all objections on principle, as well as the practical difficulties raised by the extension of the Act in question to the insurrectionary strife which the rebellion in Montenegro and Servia has complicated in such an unhappy manner. Our opinion is that the Geneva Convention has had, up to the present time, and has still only reference to international wars. On the other hand, our hesitation in assuming the responsibility of a strict observance of this Convention is easily understood, when the very nature of the irregular strife brings into play military forces where the irregular element greatly predominates.

Nevertheless, in obedience to considerations of humanity alone, and for the purpose of giving a striking proof of the feelings which animate the Imperial Government, we

have declared, with the express reserve that the Geneva Convention should not be considered obligatory in the existing case, that we would consent on this occasion to respect the principles which have inspired this Convention, and to use our best endeavours that there may be some practical benefit from its arrangements as far as is possible, and as far as depends on us. Have the goodness, while stating clearly our reserves, which are justified by the very nature of the Convention, and by the character of the struggle that is going on, to acquaint the Government to which you are accredited with the decision of the Sublime Porte. You will reply in the same sense to all whom the subject may concern.

No. 113.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 29, 1876.

I CONCEIVE that the accession of a new Sultan ought to be taken advantage of to bring about peace, and I have said to Minister for Foreign Affairs that his first act should be to issue a Proclamation declaring his intention to restore tranquillity, to promise amnesty and oblivion of all that has passed to those who had been or were still in arms, whether Servians, Herzegovinians, or Bulgarians, and to engage that their grievances should be redressed.

No. 114.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 29, 1876.

THE following is telegraphed by Mr. Monson from Ragusa:—

Telegraphic orders have been sent from the Italian Government to Signor Durando to go at once to Montenegro, and to place himself at the disposal of the Prince for the transmission of any proposals of His Highness.

No. 115.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 29, 1876.

I RECEIVED yesterday a telegram from your Excellency, in which you stated that it was probable that you would see Count Andrassy on the 30th instant, and requested that you might be enabled, in case of his observing, as you thought it probable that he might do, that a formal request from the Prince of Montenegro for the good offices of the Powers must be received before mediation could be offered, to state what was the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

Soon after you despatched this telegram, you will have received copies of my communications to Lord A. Loftus and Sir H. Elliot, from which you will have learnt that I had expressed my opinion that it was very desirable that Montenegro should be included in the armistice; had pointed out that we had no official knowledge that Prince Nicholas was ready to treat; and had asked whether, if the Porte should inquire whether the Prince authorized negotiations in his behalf, the Russian Government would advise him to reply in the affirmative.

I can give you at present no further information than that which you will have gathered from these communications. Her Majesty's Government are fully alive to the importance of inducing Montenegro to join in the negotiations for peace, and consider it essential that she should do so; but, having no means of communicating directly with the Prince, they have taken the only step in their power in suggesting that the communication should be made by the Russian Government, which has ready means of access to the Prince and his advisers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 116.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 29, 1876.*

GERMAN Ambassador at Constantinople is directed to support demand for a general suspension of hostilities, applying to Montenegro and the insurgent bands as well as to Servia.

No. 117.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 29, 1876.*

M. DE BULOW informs me that instructions have been sent to the German Ambassador at Constantinople to join the Representatives of the other Powers in their demand for cessation of hostilities.

As regards any steps to be subsequently taken, German Government is not ready at present to express an opinion.

No. 118.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 30.)

My Lord, *Scutari, August 20, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th instant, stating that I had ascertained that there was no truth in the reports that the Montenegrins had ill-treated the wounded and prisoners of the recent engagements, I regret that I am now obliged to report to your Lordship that, during the battle of the 14th instant, near Medun, they appear to have reverted to their old practices, and to have mutilated the Turks who fell into their hands alive.

Mahmoud Pasha invited me yesterday, by telegraph, to proceed to Podgoritza with all my colleagues, if they would accompany me, to satisfy ourselves by ocular demonstration in the hospitals there of the atrocities that had been perpetrated on some of his soldiers that had been in the power of the Montenegrins.

As I did not think it possible to induce all my colleagues to go to Podgoritza, and as the scope of our visit might be misunderstood, not only by the Montenegrins, but also by the Turkish soldiery, who might fancy us able, if only willing, to put a stop to the cruelties of their enemies, I deemed it best to suggest to Mahmoud Pasha that we should be called upon to see the mutilated Turks when they are forwarded to the central hospital at Scutari, and that, in the meantime, the fact of such cruelties being committed can be made public through the correspondents of the English and German press, who have recently arrived in Albania.

I have now received a reply from Mahmoud Pasha, informing me that he will follow the course I have advised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 119.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 30.)

My Lord, *Paris, August 29, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes left Paris yesterday evening for Vichy, but, on receiving your Lordship's telegram, I wrote immediately to him to say that you agreed with him in thinking that it would be very desirable that the suspension of hostilities, for which application was to be made to the Porte, should extend to Montenegro, as well as to Servia.

I added, however, that your Lordship pointed out that, although it seems probable that the Prince of Montenegro is willing to treat, we have no certain knowledge of this,

* Repeated to Embassies.

and I concluded by saying that your Lordship thought that we ought first of all to ascertain positively that the Prince is, in fact, willing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 120.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 30, 1876.

I SEND your Excellency a copy of a letter from the Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War, giving the names of persons who have started from this country for the seat of war as employés of the Society, and I inclose specimens of the badge and certificate with which they have been provided.

I have to instruct your Excellency to furnish the Turkish Government with a list of these names, and with the badge and papers, in order that proper protection may be afforded to them, and to guard against unauthorized persons representing themselves as agents of the Society.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 121.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received August* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August* 30, 1876.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs telegraphed yesterday evening to Italian Minister at Constantinople, instructing him to address an official request to the Porte for armistice either in conjunction with his colleagues, or individually if concert were unattainable.

No. 122.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received August* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 30, 1876.

I HAVE just had an interview with the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and have used every argument in favour of the acceptance of proposal for a suspension of hostilities.

They will, I think, ultimately accept, and they will certainly do so at once if the proposal is to mediate for a peace instead of for an armistice, the latter of which alternatives is considered very unfavourable to Turkey.

They say Grand Council would have to be assembled to deliberate on the proposal, and that until the question about the Sultan is settled, nothing can be decided on as regards a matter of such vital interest.

I expect that this change will be proclaimed to-morrow, as the Ministers declare that the presence of the Sovereign has become indispensable, and cannot be longer deferred; but this is not as yet quite certain.

No. 123.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.†—(*Received August* 30, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 30, 1876, 4 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has addressed urgent advice to the Prince of Montenegro to join in the appeal of Prince Milan for an armistice.

His Highness is of opinion that for the moment an armistice alone can be negotiated, as the conditions for peace can only be fixed after an understanding between the six Powers.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

† A similar despatch was addressed to Consul-General White.

No. 124.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 30, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 30, 1876, 3·15 P.M.

THE Prince of Montenegro has expressed to Count Andrassy, through an Austrian Agent accredited to His Highness, his desire to see a cessation of useless bloodshed, and to be included in the mediation of the Great Powers requested by Servia.

His Highness has addressed a similar intimation to Russia, and, having requested Count Andrassy to act for him with reference to the Powers who have no Agents at Cettigné, his Excellency has requested me officially to convey the expression of His Highness' wishes to your Lordship.

His Excellency added that the Prince reserves to himself the right to explain his views later, as he considers himself, after the success of his arms, to be entitled to better terms than may be granted to Servia, more especially as his troops still occupy semi-independent districts on the frontier of Herzegovina; and Count Andrassy is of opinion that it would be for the interest of the Porte and conducive to the future tranquillity of the provinces if these districts were ceded to Montenegro.

No. 125.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 30, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 30, 1876, 7·30 P.M.

THE Italian Ambassador communicated to-day to Count Andrassy proposal from his Government that the Representatives at Constantinople should address a collective note to the Porte proposing a suspension of hostilities, and that the terms of peace should be discussed afterwards.

Count Andrassy has replied that he has already sent instructions to Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople, but entirely declines to entertain idea of a collective note.

He considers that the end desired will be best attained by the Powers pursuing the same course, but acting independently of each other.

He also strongly deprecated the idea of a Congress or a Conference.

No. 126.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 31.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 25, 1876.

AS I had the honour to report to your Lordship by telegraph last night, the Prince of Servia invited the foreign Representatives yesterday evening, and asked them to apply to their Governments for their good offices on his behalf, with a view to bring about the cessation of hostilities and the re-establishment of a good understanding between the Porte and this Principality.

Having alluded to what he hoped were the friendly dispositions of the Powers towards him and Servia, His Highness gave some explanation how it happened that this application was not made a few days sooner, and he then made a formal communication, which all of us undertook to transmit at once to our respective Governments.

His Highness then asked M. Ristic, his Foreign Minister, who was present, to hand over to us the text of this Declaration, in the form of a verbal declaration of which I have sent a copy to Sir Henry Elliot, and inclose one for your Lordship.

The only observation that was made was a question put by Prince Wrede on the subject of the suggestion that the peace should include Montenegro, and to which the Prince replied that he was not authorized to ask for anything on behalf of the Prince of that country, but that as they had commenced this war together, it was natural that he should desire that peace should be restored to both parties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 126.

Verbal Declaration made by His Highness the Prince of Servia to the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers, applying for the good offices of their Governments.

SON Altesse le Prince de Serbie ayant convoqué Messieurs les Représentants des Puissances Garantes, leur a déclaré que le Gouvernement Serbe, voulant se conformer aux vœux de ces mêmes Puissances, et désireux de voir se rétablir les bons rapports entre le Sublime Porte et la Principauté, sollicite leurs bons offices pour amener la cessation des hostilités.

Son Altesse a ajouté qu'elle considère comme un devoir de conscience de demander en même temps les bons offices des Puissances pour la cessation des hostilités entre le Sublime Porte et le Monténégro, la cessation partielle n'étant pas de nature à pouvoir conduire au but qu'on se propose.

Belgrade, ce $\frac{12}{24}$ *Août,* 1876.

(Translation.)

HIS Highness the Prince of Servia having convoked the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers, has declared to them that the Servian Government, wishing to conform themselves to the wishes of those Powers, and desiring to see re-established the good relations between the Sublime Porte and the Principality, requests their good offices to bring about the cessation of hostilities.

His Highness has added that he considered himself bound to ask, at the same time, the good offices of the Powers for the cessation of hostilities between the Sublime Porte and Montenegro, as a partial cessation would not be calculated to conduce to the desired result.

Belgrade, August $\frac{12}{24}$, 1876.

No. 127.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 31.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 29 *Août,* 1876.

JE vous communique ci-après, pour votre information personnelle, le télégramme que je viens d'adresser à son Excellence Cabouli Pacha:

"D'après nos informations authentiques, l'envoi par la Russie de secours en hommes et armes et en munitions de guerre à destination de la Servie continue à s'effectuer constamment. Des individus, ayant leurs passeports en règle, vont journellement par cinquantaines ou soixantaines prendre les chemins de fer Moldo-Valaques ou la voie fluviale pour se rendre en Serbie; des officiers Russes partent en grand nombre pour la même destination sous le couvert de l'uniforme de médecins ou de chirurgiens; des caisses d'armes et de munitions passent périodiquement sous le bénéfice de la 'Croix Rouge.' On parle même à Bukarest de l'arrivée de 2,000 Cosaques volontaires pour secourir leurs frères opprimés. Enfin, le nombre des individus envoyés en Serbie par les soins des Comités pourrait, dit-on, atteindre le chiffre de 15,000, et celui des officiers de différents grades de plus de 200. Je vous signale ces faits pour votre information personnelle."

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 29, 1876.

I COMMUNICATE to you, for your personal information, the following telegram that I have just addressed to his Excellency Cabouli Pasha:—

"According to authentic information received by us, the despatch by Russia of reinforcements of men, arms, and munitions of war to Servia, continues incessantly. Individuals, with their passports quite correct, go by the Moldo-Wallachian railways or by river, to the number of fifty or sixty a day, with Servia as their destination. Russian officers are leaving in large numbers for the same destination under guise of doctors or surgeons; chests of arms and munitions pass periodically under the protection of the 'Red Cross.' They talk at Bucharest even of the arrival of 2,000 Cossacks volunteers to assist their oppressed brethren. In short, the number of men sent into Servia

by means of the Committees may be put at 15,000, they say, and that of the officers of different ranks at more than 200. I note these facts for your personal information.

No. 128.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 31, 1876.

SULTAN ABDUL HAMID has been proclaimed.

No. 129.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 31, 1876.

INSTRUCTIONS as yet received by me and my colleagues are not sufficiently precise to enable us to lay before the Porte a direct proposal of mediation.

It is desirable that we should be exactly instructed as to communication to be made by us.

Porte greatly objects to insurgents being included in armistice, and as none of the Governments have alluded to them in their instructions to their Representatives, it will facilitate matters if all mention of them can be omitted.

No. 130.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 31, 1876.

WITH reference to Lord A. Loftus' telegram of yesterday, Austrian and German Ambassadors have received instructions to support proposal of mediation.

No. 131.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, August* 31, 1876, 6 P.M.

PRINCE HAMID has been publicly proclaimed here in room of Sultan Murad with all due ceremonies, and without excitement.

No. 132.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1876.

M. DE MARTINO called at this Office the day before yesterday, and stated that the Italian Ambassador at Constantinople reports that the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Constantinople expresses his readiness to receive favourably the propositions for a suspension of arms which may be made by the Powers on behalf of Servia and Montenegro.

The Porte asks, however, what are the bases upon which it is intended that peace should be re-established?

The Italian Government thinks that the Powers should demand collectively :—

1. Suspension of arms between the Servian and Montenegrin levies and the Turkish troops.

* A similar despatch was addressed to Mr. Malet, Lord Odo Russell Sir A. Buchanan, Lord A Loftus, and Sir H. Elliot.

2. Cessation of all military action in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Sauf à s'entendre sur les conditions de la paix et sur celles de la pacification des provinces."

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 132.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 1, 1876.*

RECEIVED yesterday the following notification of the Accession of Sultan Hamid II from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs:—

"The malady from which the Sultan Murad Khan has suffered since his accession to the throne, and which has continually grown worse, has rendered it manifestly impossible for him to hold the reins of government. The throne has consequently been declared vacant in conformity with the Fetva given by his Highness the Sheikh ul Islam, and by virtue of the laws which govern the rights of sovereignty of the Empire His Majesty Sultan Abdul Hamid II, heir presumptive to the Imperial Throne, has this day been proclaimed Emperor of Turkey."

No. 134.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 1, 1876.*

THE Austrian Government have objected to collective action on the part of the Powers to induce the Porte to accede to an armistice, and as time presses I have to instruct your Excellency to propose to the Porte an armistice of not less than one month's duration, with a view to the immediate discussion of conditions of peace.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the armistice should include all combatants.

Your Excellency will communicate these instructions to your colleagues, and ask for their support.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 135.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 1, 1876, 2 P.M.*

WITH reference to Sir A. Buchanan's telegram of the 30th ultimo, the Italian proposal of a collective note is very objectionable.

Support of Prince of Montenegro's expectation of cession of territory to him would be sure to give rise to the greatest difficulty here.

No. 136.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 2, 1876, 3·20 P.M.

YOU may communicate to the Duc Decazes substance of my telegram instructing Sir H. Elliot to propose an armistice to the Porte.

No. 137.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September* 2, 1876.

GERMAN Ambassador at Constantinople is instructed to use his discretion as to mode of demanding, and duration of, armistice; whilst deeming promptitude in cessation of hostilities necessary, M. de Bülow declines offering any further opinion on the subject.

No. 138.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September* 2, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs will telegraph to Italian Minister at Constantinople to-day to support Her Majesty's Ambassador in his demand for an armistice.

No. 139.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.— (Received September 2, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 2, 1876, 2·30 P.M.

I HAVE sent your telegram of yesterday to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and have communicated it to my colleagues, asking them for their support.

No. 140.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2, *at night.*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 2, 1876, 3 P.M.

CHEFKET PASHA, whose proceedings in Bulgaria have created so much indignation, has been dismissed from his employment at the Palace; and the Vice-Consul at Philippopoli reports the arrest of Achmet Aga, one of the chief actors in the atrocities.

No. 141.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3.)

My Lord, *Rome, August* 31, 1876.

WITH reference to the instructions which were sent to the Italian Minister at Constantinople on the 29th instant to make an official request for an armistice, either in concert with his colleagues or separately, reported in my despatch of yesterday's date. I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Melegari stated to me to-day that the Minister was acting in concert with his colleagues, and would be guided by the

* Repeated to Embassies.

result of the meeting which was to be held to-day at Sir Henry Elliot's to discuss the course which the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers were to adopt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 142.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3.)

My Lord, *Vienna, August 31, 1876.*

I HAVE received a letter from a person here stating that a financial house at Vienna remitted on the 21st instant, on Russian account, to the Metropolitan Michael at Belgrade 60,000 Napoleons, and that a further remittance to the same Prelate was made on the 28th instant of 55,000 Napoleons, and 8,000 Austrian ducats.

A few days ago also a friend of mine was informed by his banker that he had just remitted 3,000*l.* in gold to General Tchernaieff.

These incidents are mere signs of the support in money which the war in Servia is receiving from Russia.

I have, &e.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 143.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 3, 1876, 5·20 P.M.*

I HAVE formally made to the Porte the communication directed by your telegram of the 1st.

The Grand Vizier is unwell, but I have seen Midhat Pasha and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and have spoken to them on the subject.

The feeling among the Ministers and the public is strongly against the acceptance of an armistice, which is regarded as altogether favourable to Servian interests.

They say that if the remainder of the season during which military operations will be possible is lost in an armistice, while the Servians continue to receive reinforcements and supplies from Russia, their own position will be intolerable.

They would be ready to treat for peace on moderate terms, but they cannot suspend their operations till they know the basis of it.

I meet these arguments by saying that peace is sure to come out of the armistice. They repeat, however, that it is necessary for them to know the conditions.

No. 144.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August 23, 1876.*

ON the 20th instant I addressed a telegram to your Lordship worded as follows:—

"*August 20, 1876, 10 A.M.*

"I am assured by Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla that the reports about sale of Christian boys and girls in Province of Drama and district of Nevrocop are false."

I now hasten to submit, herewith inclosed, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of the Acting British Vice-Consul's report upon this matter, accompanied with the original statement, as furnished to me by the Greek Consul-General here, respecting the alleged outrages perpetrated by the Bashi-Bazouks in Drama and Nevrocop.

I also inclose a translated copy of a letter which I am assured was addressed by the Greek Bishop of Nevrocop to the local Governor, in which he flatly contradicts the reports of the alleged sale of Christian children, and of his having been ill-treated by the Rediffs in that place.

Rumours are also abroad here respecting the sale of Bulgarian children in Comanova

and other districts in North Albania, but I regret to say that I have no means on the spot of learning if they are founded on facts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 144.

Acting Vice-Consul Charnaud to Consul Blunt.

Monsieur, *Cavalla, le 15 Août*, 1876.

EN réponse à votre dépêche du 2 courant, j'ai l'honneur de vous restituer ci-inclus le document dont vous faites mention avec le résultat suivant de mes recherches pour apprendre la vérité au sujet des informations renfermées dans le susdit document.

Il est tout-à-fait inexact que quarante-un villages Bulgares aient été pillés dans le Province de Nevrocop par les Bashi-Bozouks, et que les églises Grecques furent profanées par les Musulmans.

Quelques faits isolés de conséquence minime ont eu lieu dans cette Province, comme vols insignifiants et demande d'argent, et aussitôt réprimés par l'autorité locale, rien de plus.

Dans le département de Drama il n'y a pas eu de villages pillés; la tranquillité n'a jamais cessé d'exister, et les Grecs n'ont eu jamais à souffrir de la moindre vexation de la part des Turcs, qui sont pour la plupart des agriculteurs paisibles et inoffensifs.

Il est faux aussi que le village Euternejik (Yurejik probablement) fut attaqué par les Yuruks; voici le fait qui a donné lieu à cette interprétation fausse autant que maligne.

Pour un certain temps, il y a de cela deux mois à peu près, le Gouverneur de Drama avait fait venir quelques Yuruks pour surveiller et avoir soin du susdit village de Yurejik, et autres environants habités par des Bulgares. Pour les peu de jours que ces gens sont restés à faire la garde ils entraient dans les villages de temps à autre, pour se procurer du pain et autres objets nécessaires et indispensables, moyennant paiements. Je sais que quelques villageois s'étant opposés à leur fournir ce qu'ils avaient besoin, ont été forcés par ces Yuruks à s'exécuter; et, immédiatement ils ont porté plainte au Gouverneur de Drama, lequel, pour éviter même cette contrariété, a congédié les Yuruks, et les a remplacés par quelques peu de zaptiehs, avec ordre formel de se tenir à la plus stricte discipline.

Voilà le fait véritable de la question Yurejik.

Il n'est jamais parvenu à mon savoir que les habitants Grecs de Nicotiani (Nikichian probablement), Paliohor, et Mustenia aient eu à souffrir de la part des Yuruks; avant tout dans la Province de Pravista, d'où dependent les susdit villages, il n'en existent pas des Yuruks proprement dit, ce sont des Musulmans tout à fait gens aimant la paix et la tranquillité, tous agriculteurs et ne se souciant d'autre chose qu'à faire paisiblement leurs affaires.

Il est encore faux qu'on ait vendu un enfant Grec-Bulgare a Dramma pour 12 livres Turcs à certain Chaban Effendi.

C'est vrai par contre qu'à Nevrocop il y a seize à dix-sept jeunes personnes Bulgares qu'on a pris à la défaite du village Batak, qui s'était soulevé contre le Gouvernement, mais ils ont été immédiatement consignés à l'Exarque Grec faisant fonction d'évêque, et l'autorité Ottomane leur fournit le pain quotidien. Ce n'est donc pas vrai que la communauté Grecque les nourisse, ni qu'ils soient gardés par les Musulmans.

Et à ce propos d'enfants vendus comme esclaves permettez-moi, M. le Consul, de vous exposer ce qui s'est passé pour votre gouverne :—

Il y a à peu près trois mois après la défaite du village Batak revolté, par les Turcs, on m'avait référé qu'à Nevrocop on vendait des esclaves filles et garçons pour des prix fabuleux—3 piastres pour chaque esclave!

Quoique je n'ajoutais pas foi à ces mauvaises et malveillantes plaisanteries, j'ai voulu nonobstant m'assurer d'une manière positive si vraiment il y avait quelque chose de vrai dans tout cela, et dans ce cas tacher de délivrer ces pauvres gens de l'esclavage et de la misère. Comme juste en ce moment là, mon beaupère se trouvait avoir à Nevrocop un de ses employés, certain Dimitri Kendilidi,* je m'adressais à lui immédiatement en lui écrivant et lui racontant les faits tels qu'on me les avaient dit, et lui priais, dans le cas que vraiment des esclaves Bulgares étaient en vente, de m'en acheter

* Grec de religion et franc maçon.

cinq ou dix, et même jusqu'à vingt à raison de 20 livres par individu; et que si on lui demandait un prix plus élevé de m'en informer pour lui donner mes nouvelles instructions. Bien entendu je faisais cela par pure humanité avec le but de leur donner de suite leur liberté. En réponse il est venu lui même à Cavalla pour ses affaires et il m'a assuré solennellement que l'affaire des esclaves vendus était une pure et simple invention maligne et que pas une personne avait été mise en vente.

D'autre part pourtant il m'a dit que dans la défaite des Bulgares à Batak on avait pris une quarantaine de prisonniers garçons et filles et qu'on les tenait dans les villages de Izetz pour la plupart dépendant de Novrocop et qu'on les traitaient comme domestiques en les faisant labourer la terre; pas un n'a été forcé d'embrasser l'Islamisme. En attendant la chose ayant été référée à Constantinople, ordre était venu aux autorités que chose pareille ne devait être tolérée et que ces individus retenus même comme simples serviteurs ou domestiques, on devait les élargir immédiatement et leur donner pleine liberté; et que les autorités devaient les fournir le pain et puis les faire rétourner à leurs villages en leur fournissant tous les moyens possibles et nécessaires.

En exécution de ces ordres une Commission devait se former à Nevrocop et procéder régulièrement et activement pour accomplir sévèrement le désir du Gouvernement.

Voilà, M. le Consul, les informations vraies et positives que j'ai pu en cueillir, et j'ai l'honneur, &c.

Le Gérant du Vice-Consulat d'Angleterre,
(Signé) F. CHARNAUD.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Cavalla, August* 15, 1876.

IN reply to your despatch of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to return you herewith the document alluded to by you, accompanying it with the following statement as the result of my investigations to ascertain the truth on the subject of the assertions contained in the above-mentioned document.

It is quite untrue that forty-one Bulgarian villages have been pillaged by the Bashi-Bazouks in the Province of Nevrocup, and that the Greek churches have been desecrated by Mussulmans.

Some isolated cases of the least possible importance have occurred in the province, such as paltry thefts and demands for money, and the local authorities have at once put a stop to these; nothing more than this has taken place.

In the department of Drama no villages have been pillaged; tranquillity has never been disturbed; and the Greeks have not once had to complain of being molested by the Turks, who for the most part are peaceful and inoffensive husbandmen.

It is untrue that the village of Euternejik (probably Yurejik?) was attacked by the Yuruks. The following facts gave rise to this story, as false as it is malicious:—

For a short time, some two months ago, the Governor of Drama summoned some Yuruks to keep watch over and protect the said village of Yurejik, and others in the neighbourhood, which were inhabited by Bulgarians. During the few days that these people remained on guard, they came into the villages from time to time in order to procure bread and other necessary and indispensable things, upon payment for the same. I know that some villagers who refused to supply what they were in want of, were forced by the Yuruks to comply. The villagers immediately complained to the Governor of Drama, who, to avoid similar annoyances, dismissed the Yuruks, and replaced them by a few zaptiehs, who received formal orders to maintain the strictest discipline.

This is the true history of the Yurejik incident.

I have never heard that the Greek inhabitants of Nicotiani (probably Nikichian), of Palishor, and of Mustenia, had suffered at the hands of the Yuruks. It is to be remarked, moreover, that there are no Yuruks, properly so called, in the Province of Pravista, to which the aforesaid villagers belong. The inhabitants are Mussulmans, but quite a peaceful and quiet sort of people; they are all agriculturists, whose only care is to pursue their occupations in peace.

It is untrue, again, that a Greco-Bulgarian child was sold at Drama to a certain Chaban Effendi, for 12 Turkish pounds.

On the other hand, it is true that there are at Nevrocup sixteen or seventeen young Bulgarians, who were taken at the capture of the village of Batak, which had risen against the Government, but they were immediately given over to the Greek Exarch, who is acting as Bishop, and the Ottoman authorities supply them with the means of subsistence. It is, therefore, untrue that either the Greek community support them, or that they are kept under guard by the Mussulmans.

With respect to the sale of children as slaves, allow me, M. le Consul, to relate to you, for your guidance, that which has occurred: —

About three months after the defeat by the Turks of the insurgent village of Batak, I was informed that boys and girls were being sold as slaves at Nevrocup for fabulous prices—three piastres a head!

Although I attached no credence to this wicked and malicious pleasantry, nevertheless I wished to ascertain positively whether there was any truth in the story, and, in such a case, to endeavour to free the unfortunates from slavery and misery. As just at that time one of my father-in-law's employés, a certain Dimitri Kendilidi,* was at Nevrocup, I immediately wrote to him, and told him what I had heard, and begged him, in case it were true that Bulgarian slaves were really for sale, to buy me five or six, or even twenty, at the rate of 20*l.* a-head, and if a higher price was asked, he was to inform me, so that I might give him fresh instructions. It should be well understood that I did this out of pure humanity, and with a view to set them free at once. In answer, he came himself to Cavalla on business, and solemnly assured me that the story of the sale of slaves was purely and simply a malicious invention, and that not a soul had been put up for sale.

On the other hand, however, he told me that, at the defeat of the Bulgarians at Batak, about forty prisoners, boys and girls, were taken, and that they were confined in the villages of Izetz, for the most part dependencies of Nevrocup, where they were treated as servants, and made to till the ground; not one had been forced to embrace Islamism. In the meantime, the matter having been referred to Constantinople, orders were received by the authorities that such a thing was not to be tolerated; that those even who were detained only as house-servants or farm-labourers were to be set at liberty at once, and given entire freedom; and that the authorities were to supply them with bread, and provide for their return to their villages, furnishing them with all possible and necessary means.

In order to carry out these orders a Commission was to be formed at Nevrocup, to proceed with regularity and celerity to the rigid performance of the wishes of the Government.

Such, M. le Consul, is the true and precise information which I have been able to gather, and I have, &c.

The Acting British Vice-Consul,
(Signed) F. CHARNAUD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 144.

Greek Consul-General's Statement respecting Outrages perpetrated by Bashi-Bazouks.

QUARANTE-UN villages du Province de Nevrokop ont été pillé par les Bashi-Bozouks du pays qui étaient rétourné de Batakia.

Tous les ornements des églises des susdits villages ont été transportés à Nevrokop par les Musulmans, et les églises ont été profanées.

Les villages du Département de Drama ont été pillés.

Le village Euternezik, habité par des Chrétiens Grecs, et demi heure loin de Drama, a été attaqué par des Yuruks.

Les villages Nicotiani, Pahochors, Musthenia, habités par Chrétiens Grecs, du Province Eleftherupolis, trois heures loin de Cavalla, souffrent beaucoup par des Yuruks du pays.

Sept jours avant, un jeune enfant de quatorze ans, de Batakia, a été vendu à Drama en qualité de captif à un certain Sabeen Effendi, contre 12 livres Turques, et en même temps a été forcé de devenir Musulman.

A Nevrokop se trouvent seize jeunes personnes Bulgares des deux sexes gardés par des Musulmans dans l'école Grec et se nourissent par la communauté Greque.

Dans le village Ottoman Satovista se trouvent vingt captives, dont deux sont devenu Turques, et les autres seront forcé dans la même fortune.

Dans le village Ottoman Turcovo se trouvent autres vingt personnes en captivité.

Dans le village aussi Kozani se trouvent quinze personnes de plus en captivité dont une jeune fille a été vendu la semaine dernière à un certain Molla Hassan, habitant du village Ussine, et immédiatement devenu Musulman.

* A Greek by religion and a freemason.

A Nevrokop, le 4 courant, a été battu l'évêque Vrazas, Exarque du Patriarcha, et les négociants Michel Apostolides, Theodore Camanitli et George Psalbi.

(Translation.)

FORTY-ONE villages of the Province of Nevrokop have been pillaged by the Bashi-Bazouks of the district on their return from Batakia.

All the ornaments of the churches of the aforesaid villages have been carried off to Nevrokop by the Mussulmans, and the churches have been desecrated.

The villages of the Department of Drama have been pillaged.

The village Euternezik, inhabited by Greek Christians, at half-an-hour's distance from Drama, has been attacked by the Yuruks.

The villages Nicotiani, Pahockors, Musthenia, inhabited by Greek Christians of the Province of Eleftherupolis, at a distance of three hours from Cavalla, are suffering much from the Yuruks of the district.

Seven days previously a child 14 years old, of Batakia, was sold as a prisoner to a certain Sabeen Effendi for twelve Turkish pounds, and was forced at the same time to become Mussulman.

There are at Nevrokop sixteen young Bulgarians of both sexes who are confined by the Mussulmans in the Greek school, and fed by the Greek community.

In the Ottoman village of Satovista there are twenty captives, two of whom have become Turks, and the others will have to undergo the same fate.

In the Ottoman village of Turcovo there are twenty other persons in captivity.

In the village of Kozani also there are fifteen persons more in captivity, and of these one young girl was sold last week to a certain Molla Hassan, an inhabitant of the village of Ussine, and she immediately became a Mussulman.

At Nevrokop, on the 4th instant, the Bishop Vrazas, Exarch of Patriarcha, and the merchants Michel Apostolides, Theodore Camaintli, and George Psalbi were beaten.

Inclosure 3 in No. 144.

The Bishop of Nevrocop to the Governor of Nevrocop.

(Traduction.) *Nevrocop, le* 17 *Juillet,* 1876.

VOTRE Excellence, pour répondre à une interpellation du Gouverneur de Salonique, m'a demandé des éclaircissements relativement aux plaintes formulées au sujet de l'enlèvement, à Nevrocop, de seize petites filles et petits garçons, âgés de huit à douze ans, qui auraient été gardés dans la Métropole avec un homme et sa fiancée; et au sujet du Métropolitain de Vratcha, lequel, chargé par le Patriarchat Grec d'examiner l'état actuel des Métropolitains de Drama, Mélenic, et Demir-Hissar, aurait été battu par les Rédifs.

Je m'empresse de répondre à votre Excellence qu'en effet dix-sept petites filles et petits garçons du village de Batack, se sont réfugiés auprès de l'autorité locale, qui leur a accordé les vivres journaliers et les a logés dans l'école, jusqu'à nouvel ordre du Gouvernement; qu'ensuite ces réfugiés sont volontairement passés sous la haute protection de Sa Majesté Impérial le Sultan, et qu'il y avait parmi eux un homme avec sa fiancée. (Il est à la connaissance de votre Excellence que rien ne s'oppose, chez les Chrétiens, à ce que le fiancé demeure avec sa future.)

Quant à la bastonnade dont aurait été victime le Métropolitain de Vratcha, délégué du Patriarchat que, dans l'examen des trois Métropolitains susnommés, comme il s'agit ici de moi-même, j'ai l'honneur d'affirmer à votre Excellence que, non seulement je n'ai pas été battu, mais que je n'ai reçu des rédifs aucun mauvais traitement; que tous les fidèles Chrétiens, au contraire, vivent très tranquillement et dans une sécurité parfaite; enfin qu'ils adressent à Dieu des prières ferventes pour la conservation des jours précieux de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Mais les rapports faits au Gouverneur de Salonique, et desquels il résulterait qu'il existe de la froideur entre Musulmans et Chrétiens, doivent être basés sur une calomnie ayant pour but quelque intrigue; et comme une pareille calomnie porte naturellement atteinte à l'honneur de tous les Chrétiens, je prie votre Excellence de découvrir les intrigants afin qu'ils soient chatiés comme ils le méritent.

(Translation.)

Nevrocop, July 17, 1876.

YOUR Excellency, in order to reply to the inquiries of the Governor of Salonica, has asked me for information relative to the complaints made on the subject of the carrying off to Nevrokop of sixteen little boys and girls, between the ages of 8 and 12, who are said to be kept under guard in the Metropolis by a man and his betrothed, and also as regards the alleged beating by Redifs of the Metropolitan of Vratcha, who was deputed by the Greek Patriarchate to examine into the state of the Metropolitans of Drama, Méleni, and Demir-Hissar.

I hasten to reply to your Excellency that it is true that seventeen little boys and girls of the village of Batak have taken refuge with the local authorities, who have issued to them daily rations and lodged them in the school, pending fresh instructions from the Government; that later on these refugees voluntarily gave themselves up to the high protection of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and that among them was a man with his betrothed. (Your Excellency is aware that, among the Christians, there is no objection to a man affianced residing with his intended wife.)

With regard to the bastinado to which the Metropolitan of Vratcha, who was deputed by the Patriarchate to examine into the three above-named Metropolitans, was said to have been a victim, as this relates to myself, I have the honour to assure your Excellency that not only have I not been beaten, but I was never even ill-treated by the Redifs; that all faithful Christians live, on the contrary, quite peaceably and in perfect security; lastly, that they address fervent prayers to God for the preservation of the precious life of His Majesty the Sultan.

The reports made to the Governor of Salonica, which tend to show that a coldness exists between the Mussulmans and the Christians, must be based upon a calumny, having some intrigue for its object; and as such a calumny impeaches naturally the honour of all Christians, I beg your Excellency to discover the intriguers, so that they may be punished as they deserve.

No. 145.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 4.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 23, 1876.

I WAS informed yesterday that Prince Milan was unable to take any steps towards asking for the good offices of the Great Powers, until he had communicated with the Prince of Montenegro, and that he was now awaiting an answer to a letter he had addressed on this subject to that Prince. It appeared to me, therefore, of some consequence that an influence should be brought to bear on the Prince of Montenegro, not only to dispose him to join in the course of pacification which Prince Milan was willing to adopt, but also to dissuade him from opposing the wish of Prince Milan.

I accordingly waited on M. de Giers, and spoke to him in the above sense. I said that it was of essential importance to profit of the opportunity now offered, which might not again occur, for putting an end to this sanguinary war, and, as was well known, Russia exercised a dominant influence over the Prince of Montenegro, who would be guided by any advice which the Imperial Government might address to him.

I consequently hoped that the Imperial Government would advise the Prince of Montenegro not to reject any proposal of Prince Milan to ask for the mediation of Europe, and that they should use their best efforts to induce him to join in the course of pacification, which Prince Milan was apparently willing to adopt.

M. de Giers could not take upon himself to give any reply to my suggestion, but said that he should see Prince Gortchakow on the following day, when he would report to him my observations.

The enthusiasm here for the Servian cause, and the excitement in favour of the Christians in the East, render it desirable that no time should be lost in bringing about a mediation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 146.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 4.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 25, 1876.

I WAITED to-day on Prince Gortchakow for the purpose of ascertaining the result of the suggestion I had requested M. de Giers to convey to him in regard to inducing the Prince of Montenegro to support the appeal of Prince Milan for the good offices of the Powers, as reported in my despatch of the 23rd instant.

Prince Gortchakow, after communicating to me the substance of the telegram from the Russian Consul at Belgrade, stated that he had instructed the Russian Representative at the Great Courts, by telegraph, to support the Servian request; and that he had likewise telegraphed to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople instructing him to join his colleagues in any proposal they may make to the Porte in accordance with the appeal of Prince Milan.

His Highness was unable to state whether the Prince of Montenegro had given his assent to the step taken by Prince Milan, but His Highness observed that an armistice must be general, and must apply equally to Montenegro and the insurgent provinces.

I expressed my satisfaction at this information from Belgrade, and my opinion that no time should be lost in giving effect to the appeal of Prince Milan, and in bringing about the cessation of hostilities.

Prince Gortchakow remarked that the national enthusiasm in favour of Servia was daily increasing here and throughout the Empire, and that the position of the Imperial Government was becoming one of difficulty and embarrassment; nevertheless, he assured me that the Emperor would continue in the pacific course he had consistently pursued, adding that the nation, with its devoted loyalty to the Emperor, and with the confidence reposed in him (Prince Gortchakow), placed full trust in the wisdom and patriotism of the Imperial Government.

His Highness, touching on this subject, referred to a speech which the Emperor addressed to the officers of his army on the termination of the manœuvres, and of which different versions have been current. Prince Gortchakow said that the words used by the Emperor were as follows:—

"L'honneur du pays m'est cher; jusqu'ici j'ai pu maintenir la paix, et je désire la conserver: mais si l'honneur du pays serait atteint je saurais la défendre, et alors je compte sur vous."

Prince Gortchakow spoke of the atrocities in Servia, and said that, so long as the Porte employed such elements of disorder as the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, no confidence could be placed in it. It was time that an end should be put to the effusion of blood which was creating a feeling of horror and exasperation among all classes; and it was to be hoped that the appeal of Prince Milan would be promptly followed by a suspension of hostilities, and that Europe should meet to deliberate on a final pacification.

His Highness then said that Russia was most anxious for peace. He expressed himself with some animation on this subject, and I therefore think it better to give your Lordship his Highness's own words, which were as follows:—"Nous nous sommes abstenus de toute initiative; nous avons laissé faire; nous avons attendu que l'Europe agit: mais si rien ne se fait, si cette effusion de sang continue, et si l'Empereur, mon auguste maître, me commande de prendre la plume en main, je vous garantis qu'elle sera trempée dans une encre qui comporterait avec la dignité et la puissance de l'Empire;" adding, at the same time, "Mais ce ne serait pas la guerre."

In regard to the Servian request, Prince Gortchakow observed that the Porte appeared to require that an appeal for an armistice should be addressed directly to itself. I replied that your Lordship, having made the suggestion to Prince Milan, and Europe having collectively accepted the appeal addressed to it, I considered that it would be impossible for the Porte to raise objections to the form of it.

His Highness then referred to the question of a war indemnity, which he seemed to fear would be put forward by the Porte, and observed that in the destitute state of the finance in Servia, and in view of the drain on the nation caused by the war, it would be useless to demand what is materially impossible to obtain.

No. 147.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 4.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 27, 1876.

REPORTS have for some time reached me of considerable numbers of Russian volunteers having joined the Servian army. I have been even informed that many of the Cossacks and of furlough men from the army have enlisted in the Servian cause.

I can, therefore, confirm, so far, the reports alluded to by Sir H. Elliot in his telegram of the 25th instant, although I cannot verify the numbers given.

As I have already informed your Lordship, the popular excitement here is on the increase.

I am informed that the news of the Servian victory which was received yesterday at Czarskoe Seloe has caused great exultation, but Prince Gortchakow stated to the French Ambassador that it would make no difference in the disposition of the Imperial Government as regards the appeal made by Prince Milan to the Powers for their good offices in behalf of peace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 148.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 4.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 28, 1876.

IN conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's telegram of the 25th instant, I informed M. de Giers on the 26th instant that Her Majesty's Government were ready to join in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities in accordance with the appeal of Prince Milan.

Having seen Prince Gortchakow just after he had received the request of Prince Milan through the Russian Consul at Belgrade, I was enabled to inform your Lordship, before the receipt of your telegram, that instructions had been sent to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to support any proposal addressed to the Porte by the Powers in the sense of Prince Milan's appeal.

Since I had the honour of addressing your Lordship, the enthusiasm for the Servians both in this capital and in the provinces has greatly increased, and is assuming a character which cannot but exercise a powerful influence on the minds of the Emperor and of his Government.

The popular feeling has been also greatly moved by the severe losses which the Servians are reported to have suffered during the late prolonged engagement in the neighbourhood of Alexinatz, where thirty Russian officers who had volunteered for the Servian army were killed. Much exasperation has also been caused by the report that the Porte had refused to receive the ambulances of Roumania, and had declared that it could not answer for their not being fired upon by its troops.

It has also been reported that a Russian ambulance bearing the Red Cross had been fired on by the Turks during the late engagement, and that five persons attached to it were killed.

These incidents, in addition to the religious influences brought to bear on the people, are producing a national excitement which is viewed with some alarm by the Government, and which, if continued, may lead to very serious consequences.

If the favourable opportunity now offered for a suspension of hostilities as a precursor of negotiations for peace should not be profited of, or should the Porte refuse an armistice or seek to gain delay by a continuation of hostilities, it is to be feared that the excitement here will produce an exasperation which it will be difficult for the Government to restrain or to control.

No. 149.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 4.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 29, 1876.

I RECEIVED this morning your Lordship's telegram of the 28th instant, stating that Her Majesty's Government had no official information that Prince Nicholas of Montenegro was willing to treat, or that he had authorized Prince Milan to speak in his behalf in the appeal he made for a suspension of hostilities, and inquiring whether the Russian Government would counsel him to do so.

As Prince Gortchakow leaves Czarskoe Selo to-day, accompanying the Emperor to Warsaw and the Crimea, M. de Giers had been called to Czarskoe to take leave of his Highness, and on calling at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, I was only able to see the director of his Chancellery, who could give me no information on the subject.

I may, however, inform your Lordship that Prince Gortchakow told the Italian Ambassador and myself that he considered the suspension of hostilities was to be general, including Montenegro, Bosnia, and Herzegovina.

I am told that another difficulty has arisen at Constantinople, namely, that none of the Powers who have accepted Prince Milan's appeal have yet taken the initiative in drawing up the form of application to be addressed to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities, the instructions to the Representatives having merely empowered them to support a proposal of that nature. I am also told that Austria and Germany have not yet signified their assent to the Servian requests.

This delay in submitting to the Porte a formal appeal for the suspension of hostilities may be of grave importance, as in the meantime military events may occur which may change the pacific disposition of Prince Milan and of the Prince of Montenegro, and tend to nullify or render ineffectual this favourable opening for peaceful negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 150.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 4.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 30, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday, I have now the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a private note which I received to-day from M. de Giers, on my return from Czarskoe Seloe, in reply to the question contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 28th instant, whether the Russian Government would advise the Prince of Montenegro to join in the appeal of Prince Milan to the Powers for an armistice.

M. de Giers informs me that Prince Gortchakow has urgently counselled Prince Nicholas of Montenegro to join in the step taken by Prince Milan for an armistice.

His Excellency adds that the Chancellor thinks that for the present the armistice is alone of urgency, as the basis of a peace can only be arranged after an understanding with the Six Powers.

I learn that Prince Gortchakow has expressed an opinion that General Sir A. Kemball, who is now at the Turkish head-quarters, should, with the Russian Military Attaché at Constantinople, be appointed to fix a line of demarcation between the two armies on the agreement of an armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 150.

M. de Giers to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{18}{30}$ *Août*, 1876.

EN réponse à la question que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser par le Directeur de notre Chancellerie, je m'empresse de l'informer que le Prince Gortchakow a déjà adressé au Prince Nicolas de Monténégro le conseil pressant de s'associer à la démarche du Prince Milan pour un armistice.

Le Chancelier pense que pour le moment il ne peut s'agir que d'un armistice parceque les bases de paix ne sauraient être posées que d'après une entente des Six Grandes Puissances.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* $\frac{18}{30}$, 1876.

IN reply to the question which your Excellency has addressed to me through the Director of our Chancery, I hasten to inform you that Prince Gortchakow has already urgently counselled Prince Nicholas of Montenegro to join in the step taken by Prince Milan for an armistice.

The Chancellor thinks that at present an armistice alone can be treated of, since the bases of peace can only be laid down after an understanding among the six Great Powers.

I request, &c.
(Signed) GIERS.

No. 151.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(Extract.) *Rome, August* 30, 1876.

M. MELEGARI, Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed me this afternoon that he had last evening addressed an instruction by telegraph to M. Corti, Italian Minister at Constantinople, desiring him to do his utmost to hasten the action of the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers at Constantinople in obtaining an armistice from the Porte. The armistice should include Servia, Montenegro, Herzegovina and Bosnia. M. Corti was to endeavour to obtain a united representation to the Porte on the part of the Five Powers, but if, from some cause or other, united action could not be brought about, he was to make an official communication to the Porte upon the subject by himself. His Excellency had no desire that the Italian Minister should take an isolated step, but there seemed to be no doubt that all the Powers were now perfectly agreed to ask for the armistice, and he could not understand why the demand for it had not been made officially to the Porte. The delay was incomprehensible to him, and he had lost all patience, and had consequently addressed this instruction to M. Corti, which would at all events cause something to be done.

I remarked that some delay appeared, in the first instance, to have been caused through the Representatives being uncertain whether Montenegro desired to be included in the request; and, although Prince Milan, in his appeal to the Powers, had declared in rather a vague manner that Montenegro ought to be included in the pacification, I believed we were as yet without any more direct information on the subject.

His Excellency stated that he had sent M. Durando, Italian Consul at Ragusa, to Cettigné for the special purpose of clearing up all doubt on the matter, and that he expected to receive news from him shortly, which he would at once communicate to me.

No. 152.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 4.)

My Lord, *Paris, September* 2, 1876.

I HAVE this evening had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram authorizing me to make known to the Duc Decazes the purport of the instructions respecting an armistice which you sent yesterday to Sir Henry Elliot.

The Duc Decazes is still absent from Paris, but I have written to him to say that, as the Austrian Government appears to object to a collective communication from the Powers to the Porte, and as time is very pressing, your Lordship has thought it right to instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to propose at once to the Porte an armistice, with a view to the immediate discussion of the terms of peace; the armistice to include all combatants, and to be of not less than a month's duration.

I have added that the Ambassador is instructed to communicate his instructions to his colleagues, and to ask them to support his representation to the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 153.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 4.)

(Extract.) *Berlin, September* 2, 1876.

I LEARNT from Herr von Bülow that the German Ambassador at Constantinople had been instructed by his Government to join the Representatives of the other Powers in demanding of the Porte a suspension of hostilities, this demand applying equally to Montenegro, Servia, and such of the insurgent bands as may still be under arms in the Herzegovina, Bosnia, &c.

In answer to my question, he said his Government was in no way prepared to offer an opinion as to the course to be pursued should Turkey, as he anticipated, consent to such an armistice.

His Excellency likewise declined to offer an opinion as to the form in which the demand for an armistice should be conveyed to the Porte; adding that the German Ambassador had been instructed to use his own judgment and discretion as to the form of demanding and duration of the armistice. Beyond reiterating the earnest desire expressed by His Majesty for the re-establishment of peace and the maintenance of friendly relations amongst all the Powers interested in solving this question, Herr von Bülow declined to express the views of the German Government on the subject.

No. 154.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 3, 1876, 11·50 P.M.

I AM told that Count Zichy has been desired to support the step taken by Sir Henry Elliot in conformity with your Lordship's instructions of the 1st instant.

No. 155.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 5.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, August* 29, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st ultimo, in which I reported to your Lordship that the Italian Government had accredited M. Durando as their Agent to

* Repeated to Embassies.

the Prince of Montenegro, I have the honour to state that yesterday morning that gentleman received a telegram from M. Melegari, instructing him to lose no time in repairing to the Prince's head-quarters, and in placing himself at His Highness's disposal for any communication the latter might have to make.

In consequence of the uncertainty of Prince Nikita's movements since the commencement of the war, M. Durando has hitherto remained quietly at Ragusa, and has never asked for an audience to present his credentials.

He intends to start this morning for Danilograd, where His Highness's head-quarters still remain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 156.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 5.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, August* 31, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the following communication about the detention of the Russians appeared this morning in the "Pester Lloyd":—

"According to point 7 of the Geneva International Convention the sign of the Red Cross, which is based upon the acknowledgment of non-intervention, only gives a claim to an unmolested passage to belligerent countries, when this sign is granted to the persons interested by authorities properly authorized.

"When the papers for their journey of the Russian subjects detained on account of a trespass against the police regulations were examined, such papers having been issued collectively and separately by the Red Cross Society of Warsaw and St. Petersburg in addition to the ordinary passports, the Hungarian Government desired, in the interest of non-intervention, to obtain the conviction, whether these documents were issued by properly authorized societies, and in the meanwhile, apart from the trespass against the police regulations, detained the persons in question.

"After the Government had convinced itself from a competent source that the documents issued fulfilled the rules of the Geneva International Union, it liberated the detained persons. This inquiry by its very nature required a prolonged time, which was reckoned as the penalty of the trespass against the Police Regulations."

I presume that this trespass against the Police Regulations ("polizeiliche Ausschreitung") refers to the unlicensed carrying of arms.

I understand that sixty-eight persons were liberated, inclusive of a party of twenty-four which had arrived the previous day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 157.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

My Lord, *Vienna, September* 2, 1876.

WITH reference to Mr. Gastrell's report of yesterday's date relative to the detention at Buda-Pesth of Russians travelling under the sign of the Geneva Cross, I am told that the violation of the Police Regulations by those persons alluded to was the firing of revolvers from the railway carriages and insolent conduct towards the authorities.

I understand that 600 Russians who had arrived at Warsaw have, in consequence of the disposition of the Hungarian authorities to scrutinize their documents, decided on avoiding Buda-Pesth and proceeding to Servia through Croatia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 158.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, 1·57 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 5*, 1876, 10·30 A.M.

I HAVE only yesterday evening received from Consul-General at Belgrade the written text of the application of Prince Milan Obrenovitch for the mediation of the Powers which appears to have been not for the suspension but for the cessation of hostilities.

The proposal submitted to the Porte is for an armistice, but one for peace or the cessation of hostilities would have better prospect of success.

No. 159.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 5*, 1876.

FOR your guidance as to the language to be held by you to the Turkish Ministers in the present juncture, it is right that you should be accurately acquainted with the state of public opinion in England on the subject of Turkey.

It is my duty to inform you that any sympathy which was previously felt here towards that country has been completely destroyed by the recent lamentable occurrences in Bulgaria. The accounts of outrages and excesses committed by the Turkish troops upon an unhappy, and for the most part unresisting population, has roused an universal feeling of indignation in all classes of English society, and to such a pitch has this risen that in the extreme case of Russia declaring war against Turkey, Her Majesty's Government would find it practically impossible to interfere in defence of the Ottoman Empire.

Such an event, by which the sympathies of the nation would be brought into direct opposition to its Treaty engagements, would place England in a most unsatisfactory, and even humiliating position, yet it is impossible to say that if the present conflict continues the contingency may not arise. The speedy conclusion of a peace, under any circumstances most desirable, becomes from these considerations a matter of urgent necessity.

Her Majesty's Government leave it to your Excellency's discretion to choose the arguments which you shall employ, but you will see from what I have stated how essential it is that the Turkish Ministers should be made alive to the position in which the conduct of their own authorities has placed them, and you will understand that you are warranted in using the strongest language, should occasion require it, to enforce upon the Porte the expediency of a pacific policy, and of moderation in the terms to be proposed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 160.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 5*, 1876.

ALL my colleagues yesterday made their communications to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in support of the proposed mediation, except the French Ambassador, who will make his to-day.

The Austrian Ambassador had instructions to ask, at the same time, that the Porte should make known the conditions of peace to which it pretends; the French Ambassador is instructed not to touch upon that point, and the others are, I believe, without instructions on the subject.

I am told that, at the Council of Ministers on Sunday, the general tone was very much against the acceptance of an armistice, and it seems impossible to convince them of the risks to which they will expose themselves by a refusal.

* The substance of this despatch was telegraphed on the 22nd of August.

Many believe that Russia is determined on war, which would begin in still more unfavourable conditions after the expiration of an armistice.

Some, on the other hand, continue to flatter themselves that Europe will not stand by and permit an unprovoked aggression upon Turkey by Russia, and refuse to listen to warnings that they are deceiving themselves.

No. 161.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 6.)

My Lord, *Scutari, August* 26, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th instant, I have the honour to repeat to your Lordship that I, this morning, on the invitation of the Turkish military authorities, visited the hospital here, and was shown nine soldiers who had been mutilated by the Montenegrins during the battle of the 14th instant, near Medun. I was informed by the doctor in chief of the hospital that there are still six mutilated men at Podgoritza, who are not yet in a state to be removed to Scutari.

I went to the hospital in company with M. Günner, the Austrian Vice-Consul, deputed for the duty by the Austrian Consul-General, and with M. Mavromati, the Greek Vice-Consul at Durazzo, who is here on special service. The French Consul thought the fact that he is also accredited to the Prince of Montenegro rendered it advisable for him to abstain from making a personal inspection of the victims of Montenegrin cruelty, and he has sought the details obtained by this morning's inspection from M. Günner. The Italian Consul, fearing that the Turkish authorities might be attempting to injure Montenegrin reputation, when the mutilations may have, in his estimation, been perpetrated on grounds that may be justified, also declined to take personal note of the cases. I understand that the Russian Acting Consul, owing to his undisguised partisanship for the Montenegrins, was not invited by the authorities to see the mutilated men.

The nine men I saw this morning all had their noses cut off: four had also lost their upper lips; three, although their lips remain, have, like the first four, no portion of the nose left; whilst two have lost only the cartilage and fleshy parts of the nose, the bridge remaining. All the men told nearly the same story: they were first wounded in battle, and then mutilated. A Tartar, a recruit from Angora, originally an emigrant from the Crimea, had fainted from a bullet wound in the hand; he came-to through feeling the edge of a knife on his face—a Montenegrin was cutting off his nose. He begged that his throat might be cut instead, but the favour was refused. An Arab infantry soldier from Adana was running away, when he was knocked over by a stone thrown at his head. He felt stunned. When his senses returned the stars were already in the sky. He had been stripped of every particle of clothing, and his nose had been cut off. His head is covered with yataghan cuts, and his left ear has been separated in two. He crawled away on all fours, in great fear of being seen by the Montenegrins, who were still plundering on the field of battle, and, at last, reached the Turkish lines near Podgoritza.

I will not, however, inflict upon your Lordship further details, for all the nine men, at least those who could be understood, the mutilations having deprived some of them almost of the power of speech, gave the same tale. These men do not appear to have been the victims of exceptional treatment; they say most of the wounded and dead on the battle-field were mutilated in the same way, and that they are merely a fair representation of the few wounded who managed to crawl back by stealth to Podgoritza.

We were also shown a wounded soldier, a recruit from Smyrna, who had been made prisoner by the Montenegrins, together with two others, in one of the former battles. He and his companions had been well treated, and had managed to escape one night when their guards had got drunk.

It may not be out of place to state here that the Turkish dead of the 14th instant, who, even according to official admission, do not number less than 1,100, are still lying unburied on the field of battle.

A Turkish officer, high in command, has informed me that the Montenegrins drove back a flag of truce sent to demand permission to effect the burial of the dead; but, I believe, the only attempt to obtain this permission was made through some peasant women, who may, after all, have failed to convey the message to the Montenegrin Chiefs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 162.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord, *Scutari, August 27, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, and reporting to his Excellency the representations made by me to the Turkish military authorities to put a stop to the outrages that are being committed by the Zeïbeks at Podgoritza.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 162.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, August 27, 1876.*

IN confirmation of my telegram of the 25th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Zeïbeks, having murdered an Orthodox Slav priest, and two Roman Catholic mountaineers at Podgoritza, out of a mere spirit of fanaticism and lawlessness, and having committed other outrages, I had urged Mahmoud Pasha to adopt energetic measures to restore discipline among his irregular troops.

Although the General assured me that he had already taken steps to secure the punishment of the guilty, I found that the defeat he had sustained on the 14th instant had loosened his hold over his troops, and that he would probably be unable to mark his displeasure at the conduct of the Zeïbeks, I, therefore, gladly availed myself of the arrival of the new Commander-in-chief, Dervish Pasha, to bring this matter most seriously under his consideration.

Dervish Pasha promised me that the first thing he would do on arriving at Podgoritza would be to make the Zeïbeks understand, in an unmistakeable manner, his determination to keep them under proper control, and, he added, that I would soon hear of the way in which he maintains discipline among his troops.

Notwithstanding these satisfactory assurances of the Field Marshal, I thought it advisable to suggest to your Excellency by telegraph, in view of a threatened speedy incursion of 500 Circassians from the borders of Servia and Bulgaria, that stringent orders should be sent by the Porte to the Turkish Commanders here in no way to over look the excesses of the irregular troops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 163.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord, *Paris, September 5, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes is still at Vichy, and he is not expected to return to Paris till next week.

M. Desprez, the Director of Political Affairs in the French Foreign Office, came to me this morning to thank me, on the part of the Duke, for the letter in which I communicated to his Excellency the purport of the instructions to propose an armistice to the Porte, which were sent by your Lordship to Sir Henry Elliot on the 1st instant by telegraph.

M. Desprez was charged by the Duke to tell me that orders had been sent by telegraph to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to support the proposals which Sir Henry Elliot was thus directed to address to the Porte.

He told me that, according to the latest telegraphic intelligence which he had received from Constantinople, the Representatives of the six Powers had been in communication respecting this proposal, and were likely to make a communication on

the subject to the Porte to-day. He thought, however, that there would not be a collective communication, but that each Representative would act by himself, and support the proposal in his own way.

M. Desprez expressed some apprehension lest difficulties should be made by the Porte. He said that the Turkish Ministers appeared to insist that the terms of peace should be settled before they agreed to a suspension of arms. This would, however, he thought, necessarily take some considerable time, whereas it was, on all accounts, most important to put a stop at once to hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 164.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 6, 1876.

YOUR Excellency should warn the Turkish Ministers that if they reject the proposal for an armistice, Her Majesty's Government can do no more to avert the ruin which they will have brought on the Empire. It is not possible to exaggerate the gravity of the situation.

It is most essential that all combatants should be included in the suspension of hostilities, and negotiations for peace will be undertaken immediately on the conclusion of an armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 165.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 6, 1876.

THE investiture of the Sultan takes place to-morrow, and it will be impossible therefore to communicate at once to the Porte your telegram of this afternoon.

It is of the highest importance that I should be able to inform the Turkish Ministers of the conditions of peace which Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to support.

The only chance of obtaining their consent to the armistice is by satisfying them that the peace to be negotiated will not be incompatible with interests of the country.

No. 166.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.†

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 7, 1876.

ON the 31st ultimo the Italian Ambassador communicated to me, in the form of a Memorandum, the following intelligence, which he had just received from the Italian Government, and his Excellency stated that he did so unofficially, with the object of drawing my attention to facts and proposals which were calculated to exercise an influ-

* The substance of this despatch was sent by telegraph.

† Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Lyons, Lord Odo Russell, Sir A. Buchanan, Lord A. Loftus, and Sir H. Elliot.

ence over the Slavo-Turkish question—a question which became more serious every day that a cessation of hostilities was delayed.

The Italian Agent accredited to the Prince of Montenegro, his Excellency stated, was at present in that Principality, with the Agents of Russia and Austria. His instructions were to endeavour to induce Prince Nicolas to take a similar step to that which had been taken by Servia, or to adhere to that step.

On the other hand, the Italian Minister at Constantinople had been instructed to declare to his colleagues that he was authorized to concert with them in order to apply to the Porte for an armistice for Servia and Montenegro on the basis of the respective positions of the armies, and at the same time that Turkish military measures should be suspended in the insurgent provinces which were now the theatre of hostilities.

The line of demarcation to be kept by the armies could be determined by an understanding between the Commanders of the respective armies, who might, in case of necessity, receive the assistance of foreign officers in performing this task. In the event of the assistance of the latter being accepted, they should be sent from Vienna as soon as possible.

There is at this moment an important difference between the Russian programme and that of Austria. Russia does not admit the demand of Turkey to fix the basis of peace before granting an armistice, whilst the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople, before taking any formal step with a view to mediation, is to wait till the Prince of Montenegro has addressed an invitation to the Powers, and meanwhile is to ask the Porte if and on what basis it will be disposed to enter on negotiations.

In order to put an end to these delays, which may bring on dangerous complications, it would appear to be important that England should herself take the initiative in the proposals whether, as to the *modus procedenti* or as to the substance of the arrangements to be made. Such action on the part of England would be equally necessary in regard to Montenegro.

The Marquis de Menabrea added that he had, while he was still writing, received news that Montenegro had begged the Austro-Hungarian Government to be his intermediary with the Powers in asking for mediation. Count Andrassy had given to Count Zichy instructions to join his colleagues in recommending the Porte to suspend hostilities in the insurgent provinces and in the two Principalities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 167.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 22, 1876.

I YESTERDAY received from Mr. Agent and Consul-General White a copy of the note addressed to him by the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 9th instant, complaining of atrocities committed by the Turkish troops upon Servian territory, and I have forwarded it to Sir A. Kemball in the letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, requesting him to give me any information in his power about these alleged proceedings, and to remonstrate strongly against them if he finds that they have actually occurred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 167.

Sir H. Elliot to Major-General Sir A. Kemball.

Sir, *Therapia, August* 22, 1876.

I INCLOSE the copy of a note from the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, respecting excesses alleged to have been committed by the Turks in the Servian territory.

I have to request you to give me any information in your power in reference to these proceedings, and also, if they prove correct, to make the strongest remonstrance to the Turkish Commanders against their being allowed to continue.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 168.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, August* 22, 1876.

A FEW days ago the Russian Chargé d'Affaires said that he had been directed to support my representations to the Porte about the cruelties in Bulgaria, and asked whether I had received any recent instructions on the subject.

I said I had received none since those contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 9th instant, and it afterwards appeared that it was in the language of that instruction that he was directed to speak, which he has consequently since done, as has also the Austrian Ambassador.

I said to M. Nelidow that since the affair at Hasskeui, some six weeks ago or more, I had heard of no fresh complaints of ill-treatment of Bulgarians, except in the isolated cases, for which, I am afraid, we must be prepared till peace is restored.

He said that, with the exception of such cases as I alluded to, he had heard nothing.

He spoke, however, of the inhumanity with which the Turks are conducting the war in Servia, about which I am not competent to express any opinion, having heard nothing except that the Turks accused the Servians of having destroyed every village they came to while on Turkish territory, and that now the Servians make the same charge against the Turks.

My own belief is that it will be found that both accusations are well founded, but M. Nelidow does not think it at all likely that the accusations against the Servians can be correct.

There will certainly be no difficulty in proving that the war is not carried on according to the rules observed by civilized and western nations, and those who know anything of the parties engaged on the two sides could never expect that it would be.

Invasion with these people always carries with it devastation and plunder, and the present war, to which so many irregulars have inexcusably been called, is not likely to prove an exception, whatever may be the intention or wishes of the Commanders.

No. 169.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

My Lord *Therapia, August* 23, 1876.

SAFVET PASHA, when I pressed him two days ago for an immediate answer, said that there was no difficulty whatever in the way of the free admission of the stores for the sick and wounded, and that he was in communication with the Acting Minister of War about the acceptance of assistance from the Society for the Aid of the Sick and Wounded under a guarantee to respect the engagements of the Geneva Convention of 1864.

His Excellency intimated that the only difficulty lay in the question whether the military commanders would be in a position to ensure a proper observance of those engagements by the irregular troops, and he spoke with alarm of the reproach which would be incurred by the Porte if the persons occupied in their humane work should be molested or injured.

This difficulty is certainly not an imaginary one; for the irregulars are under very little control, and in a war like the present, which is looked upon as a religious one, waged in defence of the Mussulmans from the attack of the Christians, the Red Cross becomes a dangerous distinctive sign, and one that is calculated to inflame the animosity of the wild hordes, including Koords and Zeibecks, who have been so rashly associated with the regular army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 170.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a letter sent to me by some of the English residents here, bring to my notice an extremely gross outrage stated to have been committed at a village between Adrianople and Enos.

The letter was sent by the Greek who had given them the account of what had occurred, and he repeated it to me in precisely the same terms.

While he was still with me, I happened to receive the visit of the Minister of Police, and I brought the matter at once under his cognizance; and his Excellency, having heard the man's statement, promised that an immediate and strict investigation should be made into the case.

He said that the man's deposition would be required, and to prevent him from feeling any hesitation about going to the police office, he asked that a paper or certificate should be given to him by Her Majesty's Embassy.

This was done, and the man went away, as I supposed, to those from whom he had come, and who had first taken him in.

The next day the Minister sent to me to ask that the man should be sent to the police office to make his depositions, and I directed M. Dragoman Casolani to go to the gentlemen who had written to me about him, and to accompany him to the office.

M. Casolani did so, and reported that they declared they did not know what had become of him, and that the authorities of the district in which the occurrence was stated to have occurred declared that nothing of the kind had taken place.

It was, therefore, clear, either that the local authorities were endeavouring to conceal a gross outrage committed within their district, or that an imaginary case had been invented, and it became necessary that the truth should be ascertained beyond dispute.

I went into town to-day myself, and saw the Minister of Police, who told me that he intended to-morrow morning to dispatch a special agent to the village in question to make a thorough investigation into the case, and I have directed M. Casolani to accompany him, desiring him to spare no efforts to ascertain whether anything had occurred either at the village in question or in its neighbourhood.*

If the fact is established, I shall take care that those who are responsible for the administration of the district shall be properly dealt with, and there will, I am convinced, be no disposition on the part of the Porte to shield them from the punishment they will merit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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* For result of this investigation, see No. 219.

Inclosure in No. 170.

Mr. Whittall and others to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Kadikeni, August* 20, 1876.

WE have the honour to inform your Excellency that this morning a Greek came to ask us for a refuge in our houses, and in the presence of a large number of people, after a careful cross-examination, in which we were assisted by a local knowledge that some of us had of Ipsala and its inhabitants, made and swore to the following deposition :—

"I, Pavlos Michaelou, villager of Ahirkeui, a village of about sixty houses, of which about twenty Greek and forty Bulgarian, situated three-quarters of an hour from the town of Ipsala, in the Mutessariflik of Keshan, inhabited the said village with my mother and sister, the latter 18 years of age. No Turks lived in our village. On Monday morning last, just before dawn, about thirty armed Turks from Ipsala, Mustapha, Mehmed Tchaoush, Feiz Aga, Suleiman, Arif, Skendu, Osman Aga, and others, came and knocked at the door of the tavern in our village. The door was not opened. They (the Turks) then broke it open, went in and killed the tchorbaji, called Costandi, and they took all his money. They then dispersed about the village, and began robbing the houses and attempting to violate the women. The villagers resisted and fired on the Turks. The Turks fired also, and several men on each side were killed. I was sleeping in my house at the end of the village. I heard the shots and woke. Five Turks, one called Mustapha, one Hamdi, one Suleiman, one Ibraam, and one Mehmed, came into my house and found my sister in bed, robbed her of her necklace, consisting of gold pieces, value 800 piastres, and tried to violate her. I rushed to call my cousin Andrea, and taking two double-barrelled guns we went into the room and found the whole five Turks holding my sister down and trying to violate her, she resisting. We (my cousin and I) fired at the Turks, and, as far as I know, shot four and wounded the fifth. When I fired at the man who was on my sister, I heard her scream, 'Brother, you have killed me.' Just then about twenty-five mounted police from Ipsala, who had come to the village, approached my house, and some tried to enter. We then jumped through the window and escaped, throwing away our guns. I hear that the police seized all the Christians left in the village, and sent them in irons to Adrianople. No Turks, as far as I know, were arrested. I understand about thirty villagers were killed and wounded, and about ten Turks killed, and some wounded. All this latter part I heard from some of my fellow-villagers, who had escaped and rejoined me later.

(Signed) *Παῦλος Μιχαήλ.*

"*Kadikeui, August* 20, 1876.

"The above was read to me, and I swear it is correct."

"Witnesses to signature:

("A large number of Englishmen.")

We consider it our duty to lay this matter before your Excellency, as, if the details are correct (and the man appears to speak the truth, and has not swerved, after a considerable cross-examination), we fear that serious injustice may be doing to the villagers arrested. It is not likely that a small Christian village, situated in the midst of a Turkish population, and so far from the recent scenes of trouble (for Ipsala is near Enos, a port on the Archipelago) should have provoked the Turks to attack them. We fear there is a feeling afloat amongst the Mussulmans that they can with impunity attack native Christians, or rather this impression prevails amongst many Christians, especially in European Turkey, and unless the Government take measures to remove this feeling by severely punishing offenders, there will, we fear, be much trouble still. Without, in any way, attempting to guarantee the exact truth of the details given, we feel bound to send this letter to your Excellency, and we shall endeavour, at the same time, to send you Pauli Michaelou.

We are, &c.

(Signed) J. W. WHITTALL.
A. BARKER.
ROSS TAYLOR.
J. LA FONTAINE.

The bearer of the present is accompanied by Pauli Michaelou.

No. 171.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, August 27, 1876.*

I IMMEDIATELY communicated to the Porte your Lordship's telegram announcing that Prince Milan had applied to the Powers for their mediation to obtain a prompt suspension of hostilities, with a view to the conclusion of a peace with Turkey, and at the same time I supported, by all the arguments at my command, the warning conveyed by Her Majesty's Government of the danger to which the Empire would be exposed if the Porte neglected the opportunity of arriving at a pacification.

The advice of Her Majesty's Government produced a great effect upon Safvet Pasha and Midhat Pasha, who are, I believe, convinced of the necessity of being guided by it, although they cling to the wish that Prince Milan would apply directly to the Porte, which, they say, would remove all difficulty.

I insisted that it was necessary for us to be satisfied with what we could get, and the application of the Prince to the Powers was quite sufficient to show that the proposition for peace came from Servia, and not from Turkey.

It would therefore be unpardonable to risk the vital interests of the Empire by standing out on such a point.

I did not see the Grand Vizier on this occasion, but in the expectation that the request was about to be made by Prince Milan, I had held the same language to His Highness just before your Lordship's telegrams reached me, when his language led me to infer that some resistance on his part will have to be overcome.

There are, however, some points on which the Representatives here ought to be informed without loss of time.

Hitherto, the mediation has only been spoken of as one for Servia and the Porte, although Mr. White reported that the Prince had added that it would be desirable for Montenegro to be included in the pacification.

The Austrian Agent at Belgrade, as reported by Sir Andrew Buchanan, informed his Government that Prince Milan had stated that, although he was not formally authorized by the Prince of Montenegro to act for him, His Highness had approved of the intended appeal to the Powers, and had expressed his readiness to participate in a negotiation for peace.

There can be no doubt that the suspension of hostilities ought if possible to include both the Principalities, but the Representatives should at once be placed in a position to inform the Porte that their Governments are authorized to treat for Prince Nikita as well as for Prince Milan.

While the Servian attack has proved a failure, the Prince of Montenegro has obtained undoubted successes over the Turkish army, and advantage may perhaps be taken of this by the Russian Government to press for some territorial concessions in favour of His Highness, although, as the Montenegrins are represented as having evacuated the Herzegovina in order to meet the threatened attack of the Turks on the southern part of the Principality, the pretext for putting forward the claim is now less plausible than it would have been a few weeks ago.

No. 172.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 29, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government have been blamed in certain quarters for keeping the fleet at Besika Bay, which is alleged to have been an encouragement to the Turks in their cruelties in Bulgaria.

I can assure your Lordship that such is not the opinion of the Christian communities in this country, who declare loudly that the knowledge of Her Majesty's ships being in the neighbourhood has greatly contributed to their safety, and was a cause of preventing the horrors that did occur from being on a still more extended scale.

They say that those cruelties were the result of a panic which had seized the Mussulmans, who, believing themselves about to be exterminated or driven out of the country, commenced an indiscriminate attack on the Christians, and carried it on with unheard-of brutality.

The knowledge that the British squadron was at Besika made them, however, believe that they were not entirely deserted, and they did not give way to those feelings of desperation under which they would have laid waste the whole country.

This is the opinion of the effect produced by the attitude of Her Majesty's Government entertained by the persons most interested, and most capable of forming a correct judgment.

While Her Majesty's Government and Embassy have been accused at home of indifference to the cruelty with which the Bulgarian insurrection was suppressed, I have here been continually receiving the warmest acknowledgments from the most influential personages of the different religious communities for the services we were rendering them.

Patriarchs and high ecclesiastical dignitaries have expressed to me personally their indignation at charges which every one here knew to be false.

I am assured that the unconcealed object of some of the newspaper correspondents in the tone they have adopted, is to create in England such a strong current of public opinion against the Turks, as to oblige Her Majesty's Government ultimately to abandon the policy which has at all times been followed towards this country; to cease from allowing themselves to be regarded as interested in its maintenance; and to assume the position of protectors of the Christians against their Mussulman oppressors.

Although I have frequently stated it to your Lordship, I must be allowed to repeat that any attempt to drive the Turks back will prove the utter destruction of whole Christian populations.

Their expulsion could be readily effected by large European armies, but those little know the character of this people who can suppose that they would retire without massacring every Christian man, woman, and child, and reducing the whole country to a desert.

It is easy enough to say that the Turk must be driven out of such and such a province; but if those who advocate it were at all aware of what it would entail upon the Christians, both in European and Asiatic Turkey, they would hardly speak of it so lightly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 173.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 30, 1876.

IT being understood that at the Ministerial Council to-day the question of accepting the proposed mediation of the Powers was to be discussed, I went to the Porte, where I had an interview with the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and Safvet Pasha.

I found them all, and especially the former, in a state of extreme depression.

The Council had first to come to a decision with regard to the Proclamation of Hamid Effendi as Sultan in the place of his brother,—which will, probably, take place to-morrow, as it is felt that the presence of a Sovereign, at the present crisis, has become indispensable, and cannot be deferred in the faint hope that His Majesty may ultimately be restored to health.

The Ministers said that the question of accepting the mediation would have to be referred to the Grand Council, but that no decision could be come to on such a momentous matter in the absence of a Sovereign.

I then, by every argument at my command, endeavoured to convince them that a hesitation on their part to accept the mediation was certain to be attended with consequences which might be fatal to the Empire.

The sympathy of the Russian people in the Servian cause had already reached such a height that if the war continued the Government would inevitably be obliged to

declare openly in its favour, and there was not a Power in Europe to which the Porte could turn with the slightest hope of meeting with support.

Public feeling in England had been so much outraged by all that had taken place in Bulgaria, that, even if Russia declared war against Turkey, it would be impossible for Her Majesty's Government to interfere in her behalf.

The Ministers expressed lively indignation at the manner in which they had been treated by Europe.

It was, they said, a very short time since they had been told that the principle of non-intervention between them and their enemies had been adopted, and the Russian Government, especially, had announced that if the Prince of Servia attacked Turkey, he would be left to bear all the consequences to which his wanton act might expose him.

All these fair words are now to be belied.

The Prince did make his unprovoked attack, which, however, to the disappointment, no doubt, of some, at least, of the Powers, was successfully repelled; and now the Powers come forward in a body to save him from a just retaliation, and from the consequences which they had declared he would be left to bear.

I said there was nothing to be gained by our discussing this point, our present business being to examine fairly the existing state of things, and to ascertain what was the safest course for the Porte to follow, with a view to the interests of the Empire.

The Ministers said that they, at present, hardly knew what the proposal about to be made to them is.

They had received communication of telegrams, stating that Prince Milan had asked the mediation of the Powers, and that he had intimated that the Prince of Montenegro approved of the proceeding, but they presumed that they would be told clearly what it was that they were asked to consent to.

I said, that I and the other Representatives would, no doubt, shortly be informed of the exact nature of the proposal to be made, but at present I could only say that the proposed mediation was to obtain a suspension of hostilities with a view of making peace, and that it was desirable that this suspension should be general, and applicable to the Servians, the Montenegrins, and the insurgents.

They said that they looked upon an armistice as most detrimental to the interests of Turkey, and that they would have much less repugnance to accept mediation of which the object was the direct conclusion of peace, rather than a suspension of arms, which might leave them in a worse position than they are in at present.

The basis of a peace might, they declared, be settled in an hour.

From this expression, and other things that fell from them, I believe that a proposal by the Governments to mediate for a peace, on the basis of the *status quo ante*, would be accepted without difficulty.

I expect, however, that they will consent, although with much reluctance, even to a mediation for the suspension of hostilities,—but they insist strongly on the difficulty of including the insurgents in it.

These, they say, consist now chiefly of small bands of brigands and pillagers who will not respect an armistice, and the Ministers cannot believe it to be intended that the Porte should take an engagement which would leave the inhabitants of the Herzegovine and Bosnia at the mercy of these people.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No 174

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 31, 1876.*

THE inclosed despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy appears not to have been forwarded as it ought to have been when it was received.

It was, however, immediately communicated to Safvet Pasha, and I have continued to protest against the impunity which has been allowed to Shefket Pasha, the atrocity of whose proceedings has been fully confirmed by all subsequent inquiries, although as Mr. Baring satisfied himself that not more than 150 person perished at Boyadjikeui, the report which reached Mr. Brophy of only 50 out of 2,000 having been saved was, fortunately, far from correct.

The further despatch from Mr. Brophy of the 18th instant, of which I also inclose an extract, was forwarded by me to Safvet Pasha with very strong remarks upon the Porte for tolerating the continuance of the proceedings described in it.

His Excellency promised to move the Grand Vizier to send to Bourgas to make proper inquiry into the outrages and the state of the district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 174.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bourgas, June 14, 1876.*

THE account of the affair of Boyadjik, which I had the honour of sending to your Excellency in my Report of the 4th June, was, I regret to say, incorrect. The truth about the destruction of the above village is as follows:—The inhabitants of the neighbouring villages had fled to Boyadjik with their flocks, herds, and other property, from fear of the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians. Some of the former went to the village and demanded that all the arms should be given up—the invariable prelude to robbery and plunder. The Bulgarians then refused to surrender their weapons to the Bashi-Bazouks, who reported to Aschim Effendi, the Caimakam of Yamboli; the latter, acting under orders from Slimnia, went to Boyadjik, which is in the Caza of Slimnia (not, as I erroneously stated, in that of Yamboli), and was told by the peasants that they were ready to give up their arms to the authorities of their own district.

Upon this answer being telegraphed to Slimnia, Chefket Pasha, commanding the troops there, was sent to Boyadjik with a large force of Bashi-Bazouks and some artillerymen.

When he arrived on the spot the chief men of the village went out to meet him and threw themselves at his feet, protesting that they had no bad feeling against the Government, and that they had assembled only to protect themselves, their families, and their property against the attacks of Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks; Chefket Pasha then asked if they would give up their arms, and the deputation replied in the affirmative, saying that they would return to the village and collect them: they went back with this intention, but as soon as they were within the village the order to storm it was given by Chefket Pasha, and a general massacre commenced, the Bulgarians offering no resistance, and allowing themselves—to use the words of a Mussulman who was present—to be slaughtered like sheep.

Of some two thousand men, women, and children, only about fifty escaped; flocks, herds, and all other property of the villagers were carried off by the murderers. To give your Excellency an idea of the amount of plunder, I may mention that a certain Hadji Mourad, a Tartar, living in a village belonging to this Caza, brought back from Boyadjik 600 sheep, and a score or so of oxen. Christian children were carried off by the Circassians, and are now slaves in the Circassian villages. The few survivors have appealed to Slimnia, and Chefket Pasha, in order to screen himself, has asked for certificates to prove the necessity of his acts from the Bishop of Slimnia and the Caimakam of Yamboli, both of whom, as I am informed, have refused to give any such documents.

In the Caza of Bourgas brigandage and robbery are, as usual, the order of the day: the Caimakam is a cipher, if not worse; the Mussulman members of the Council are in league with the Circassian and other freebooters; and the Christian members are afraid to call their souls their own.

Yesterday some report was brought here of troubles having broken out at the village of Allagünlü, twenty-five miles from here, and some gens d'arme were sent there. The news is sure to prove false, but even if it were true, the Bulgarians of that village have had great provocation; four Salmadjis (a sort of Bashi-Bazouk sent on a special mission for the repression of brigandage, &c.,) from Adrianople are stopping there and practising various kinds of cruelties on the peasants. One man, Alexi-Oglou-Ivan, they burnt on the breast with heated fire-irons in order to extort from him the sum of 800 piastres.

On the 12th instant a Bulgarian, named Fütchedji-Oglou-Georghi, an old man of ninety, was carried away from his village, Memetehkeni, in this Caza, to the mountains and a large ransom is demanded. The brigands were six in number, mounted, and in Circassian dress; no measures have been taken by the authorities here.

Zuchti Effendi, the Special Commissioner sent by the Grand Vizier to report upon the state of this Caza, is to arrive from Slimnia to-day. The authorities have already concerted steps to prevent him arriving at a knowledge of the truth, but if he is equal to the mission entrusted to him, their efforts will probably be futile.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 174.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Bourgas, August* 18, 1876.

ON the 21st July, at the village of Aghadjlar, in the Caza of Yamboli, eight Circassians came, at midnight, to the house of a Bulgarian named Dragni; four of them remained on guard at the gate of the fence, whilst the other four seized the family, consisting of Dragni, his son of 18 years of age, and his daughter of 13 or 14, who were all sleeping outside under the verandah. One of these four carried away the girl to a little distance, and there violated her, whilst the others pricked the father and son with their daggers ("camma") to extort money. Then the girl was seized by another of the ruffians, who brought her to where Dragni was, and she was again outraged, this time before her father's eyes. Not being able to get any money, they took a pair of oxen, the only property of value belonging to Dragni, some copper vessels, &c., and went off.

Complaint being made at Yamboli, police were sent to the village, but contented themselves with saying, "Tell us who the robbers are, and we will arrest them." These details I learnt from M. Karabet Kiatibian, owner of the farm of Aghadjlar, who was at the village at the time. I have since been informed that the girl was dead, but I am not quite certain of the fact.

On the 3rd or 4th of August some Circassians fired at and wounded a shepherd named Minczo, of the village of Ak Yasli, in this Caza. On the 12th instant four Circassians came at night to steal sheep from the pasturage of Kousso Kesser, also in this caza, and fired upon two shepherds named (each of them) Zelio; of these one was shot dead on the spot, and the other is not expected to live.

No. 175.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 31, 1876.

ON receiving Mr. Consul Reade's despatch of the 19th instant, upon the state of the vilayet of the Danube, and the frequent assaults committed by soldiers, I put copies of them into Safvet Pasha's hands, and told him, at the same time, that as Mr. Reade reported cases of assault upon British subjects, I should address him officially, calling upon him to see that measures were adopted to ensure their security.

Your Lordship will perceive that I had taken the opportunity of adverting to the objectionable use of the word "jihad," as applied to the present war, to which your Lordship has called my attention by your telegram of the 28th instant.

I had, on many previous occasions, done so verbally both to Safvet Pasha and other Ministers, but they have always been satisfied with answering that the word, which is

Arabic, so little means, in reality, religious war, that in Egypt it is the designation given to the War Department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 175.

Sir H. Elliot to Safvet Pasha.

Sir, *Therapia, August* 22, 1876.

I YESTERDAY put into your Excellency's hands extracts from two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk, reporting upon the lawless proceedings which are allowed to take place in that town and district.

Mr. Reade reports that several assaults have lately taken place upon British subjects, one of them being upon a woman belonging to the Consul's family, and the other upon an Englishman of the name of Dillon, who was assaulted by a non-commissioned officer of the Imperial army.

This last man was identified, and the case was brought under the notice of the Governor-General by the Consul, who states that it was only after much unnecessary delay that his Excellency sent to inform him that the man had received the totally inadequate punishment of eight days' imprisonment.

I have now the honour to call upon your Excellency to cause instructions to be given to the Authorities to deal with all cases of assault with such severity as shall ensure to Her Majesty's subjects the security to which they are entitled.

Mr. Consul Reade expresses the opinion that, by a slight display of energy, the insecurity that still prevails in some parts of the northern provinces can readily be put an end to; and that the first thing that should be done is to disarm the Circassians, whose lawless disposition is a matter of notoriety.

It has been urged that, in dangerous emergency, it became necessary to arm these people; but it cannot be pretended that this emergency continues, or that there can be any justification for exposing the peaceful inhabitants to their tyranny and oppression.

Your Excellency will observe what is stated by Mr. Reade (which agrees with what has been represented to me from many other quarters) respected the word "jihad," as applied to the present war.

It is affirmed that it does not strictly signify a "religious war;" but whether this is or not its literal grammatical meaning, it is at least universally understood so by people in general, and its employment contributes to stimulate the bitterness of the feelings which late events have created between the different classes.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 176.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 31, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a note which I have received from Safvet Pasha, by which he notifies to me the accession of Sultan Abdul Hamid II to the Ottoman Throne.

I also inclose an extract from the "Turquie," giving an account of the ceremony of proclamation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Safvet Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 31 *Août*, 1876.

LA cruelle maladie dont le Sultan Mourad Khan a été atteint dès les premiers jours de son avènement au Trône, et qui n'a fait que s'aggraver depuis, l'a mis dans l'impossibilité manifeste de tenir les rênes de l'Empire.

En conséquence, le Trône a été déclaré vacant conformément au Fetvah rendu par son Altesse le Cheïkh-ul-Islam, et en vertu des lois qui règlent les droits de la Souveraineté dans l'Empire. Sa Majesté le Sultan Abdul Hamid II, héritier présomptif du Trône Impérial, a été proclamé Empereur de la Turquie.

Je me fais un devoir empressé de notifier à votre Excellence l'avènement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan Abdul Hamid II au Trône de ses ancêtres, et je vous prie d'en informer le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, en lui transmettant en même temps les sentiments de sincère amitié de mon auguste maître.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, August* 31, 1876.

THE cruel malady from which the Sultan Mourad Khan has suffered since the first days of his accession to the Throne, and which has continually grown worse, has rendered it manifestly impossible for him to hold the reins of Government.

The Throne has consequently been declared vacant in conformity with the Fetvah given by his Highness the Sheikh-ul-Islam, and by virtue of the laws which govern the rights of sovereignty of the Empire. His Majesty Sultan Abdul Hamid II, heir presumptive to the Imperial Throne, has this day been proclaimed Emperor of Turkey.

I hasten to notify to your Excellency the accession of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan Abdul Hamid II to the Throne of his ancestors, and I beg you to inform the Government of Her Britannic Majesty thereof, and to convey to them at the same time the assurance of the sincere and friendly sentiments of my august Master.

I request, &c.

(Signed) SAFVET.

No. 177.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 8.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, August* 29, 1876.

NOTHING is more striking in this war than the active sympathies it has called for in the Russian nation, in defiance of the pacific intentions of the Czar himself, and the results of the vague aspirations thus brought into play may, in the long run, throw into the shade the actual paltry military events of this war, and effect not only the internal condition of the Russian Empire, but even its political relations to foreign Powers.

During a large part of my life I have followed very closely everything connected with Russia, but on the present occasion, though I am not in the least surprised or astonished to hear the proportions which the pro-Slavonic manifestations are assuming throughout that vast Empire, I regret to say that I reside too far off to enable me to form an opinion as to the important consequences to which these may ultimately lead.

It is quite impossible at a distance to distinguish properly between those acts in which the Russian Government is merely tolerating proceedings on the part of its subjects under pressure, and out of consideration for popular sentiments, and those in which it may be but too glad to find a most convenient excuse for explaining and justifying to the world present or prospective action on behalf of the Slavonic Christians of Turkey.

Then, again, it is extremely difficult to foresee whether a strong national craving in

favour of Slavs, so general and so intense as the present movement is said to be in Russia, can yet be checked or totally ignored by the Czar's Government, although it might have been restrained at its commencement.

It would naturally be asked, is that impulse sufficiently strong and irresistible as to be likely to influence the policy of the Russian Government even to the extent of making it depart from the pacific line of conduct to which the Emperor Alexander has hitherto prided himself in adhering.

I own I am unable to give an answer to any of these questions, but I admit them as being of the greatest and most vital importance in the critical state to which the condition of a portion of European Turkey has arrived within the last few months.

The military arrangements of the Porte have likewise hitherto not corresponded, as far as may be judged by results, to the expectations held out by its partisans.

We had been always assured that the Ottoman Empire had spent large sums of money on its army, and that though its military organization had proved very expensive and particularly oppressive to the Mussulman portion of the population, it could be relied upon as constituting an imposing and efficient force for the defence of the Empire.

The inability to put down the insurrection in the Herzegovina within a reasonable time had tended to shake the belief in the above assertion, and certainly the little progress that the Ottoman armies have made since two months have not contributed to re-establish the reputation they formerly enjoyed of consisting of irresistible legions.

During the present war all available forces appear to have been brought together against Servia and Montenegro, the Egyptian and Tunisian contingents, as well as numerous reserves, have been called out, and it is even asserted that some distant districts of the Empire in Asia have been almost denuded of their usual garrisons.

With all this it does not appear that Turkey is in possession of an army numerically corresponding to the size and to the requirements of the Empire, however brave and well equipped, this army engaged in the present hostilities does not appear equal in strength to what could have been expected from Turkey by her friends at the present juncture.

I have heard the present Turkish force actually in the field variously estimated; I hear from Russian authorities that the districts of Trebizonde, Erzeroum, and the Province of Armenia are quite open to a foreign invader; and the assertion that the Porte, unable as she has hitherto proved herself to subdue domestic enemies, with the exception of the ill-used Bulgarians, would not be able to cope single-handed with a foreign foe, has certainly some show of probability, and appears fully deserving of careful scrutiny.

I have no doubt that Her Majesty's Government will be soon in possession of much more accurate information as to the actual resources of the Turkish Empire than those which could be collected in peace time, whilst on the other hand the reports which may be in your Lordship's hands from St. Petersburgh, Moscow, Odessa, and other Russian towns may assist in forming some opinion as to the dangers to the general peace which may accrue from the intensity and duration of those pro-Slavonic feelings which appear to have assumed such extraordinary proportions amongst all classes of the Russian people.

The private accounts which I receive on this last subject fully corroborate those which appear in the press, and correspond, though they exceed in degree, with what I had almost anticipated on this question for some years past as likely to happen in Russia whenever a question of this kind should come to the foreground in the East.

The exuberance of Russian feeling on this question has produced a disposition amongst her people to give material assistance to Servia in several manners.

Large collections of money are made throughout Russia; all classes, and even civil servants are expected to contribute, and the proceeds are sent over to Servia, but do not flow into the Exchequer here; a portion is applied to the wants of the sick and wounded through the medium of the Russian Red Cross Society, whilst another portion is paid over to General Tchernaieff and disbursed by him as he thinks proper, principally, I believe, in assistance to officers and men under his command.

The other mode of assisting Servia has been adopted by sending officers and non-commissioned officers to do actual work here; this is managed by the Slav Committees, and the popularity of General Tchernaieff attracts a good many. I am assured that the number of those who have come over from Russia in this way probably exceeds 1,000, and more are expected.

Some of the lower grades are men who are no longer in active service, but almost all the officers appear to have left their regiments quite lately, and to have a fair prospect held to them of getting back their Commission when their present temporary service is over.

This last circumstances creates a strong presumption that these arrangements are known and approved of by the Emperor and his Minister for War, General Miliutine. At any rate the Servians see in the sympathy evinced to their cause in high quarters quite sufficient encouragement to protract the war, and abundant reason to hope for ultimate support on the part of Russia.

In the negotiations for peace which have, it is hoped, commenced, it will be well to bear in mind that the concurrence of Russia must be beyond a shadow of doubt, and the language of her Representative here must be clear and precise if these are to be conducted at Belgrade to a successful issue.

No. 178.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 8.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September* 1, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to report that it is probable that, as regards a delivery of fifty tons of gunpowder on the 20th ultimo at Regensburg, which should now be at Vienna on its way to its nominal destination of Roumania, the Turkish Embassy will, at the suggestion of the Turkish Consul-General here, prevent its further despatch by compensating for loss of freight the Danube Steam Navigation Company, which will then refuse to convey it further. As gunpowder cannot be forwarded by railway, and there are no other vessels on the Danube, my Turkish colleague expects that this will prevent the gunpowder from coming into the hands of the Servians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 179.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 8.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September* 3, 1876.

MY Turkish colleague informs me on the authority of Fuad Pasha, that there are at Widdin some 1,800 Serbs, who have forsaken outpost duty and delivered themselves up to the Turks. Sermed Effendi also says that on the fields of combat eight out of ten Serbs are found with wounds from behind.

A German volunteer officer, who was present, related to my Prussian colleague that at the fighting at Bjelina the Servian Militia was placed in reserve on the second line and ran away at the very beginning, and that the Bosnian Christians, forced into the Servian army by flying columns, invariably took the first opportunity of outpost duty or otherwise to run away to the Turks and give up their arms. This is confirmed by my Turkish colleague, who says the Bulgarians also desert at the first opportunity and deliver up their arms to the Turkish authorities.

One of my colleagues, who has just returned from a short trip to the Banat and Belgrade, tells me that Servia is really governed by the Russian officers with Tchernaieff as a Dictator; that the Servian staff officers pervade the streets of Belgrade, and that without the Russians little fighting could have been accomplished.

In this so-called "Holy War" Servia has become an outlying fortress of Russia to aid for political purposes in weakening Turkey, whilst the neighbouring Christian peoples do not seem inclined as yet to strike a blow for freedom from Ottoman rule.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 180.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 8, 1876.

SERVIAN official information speaks of various acts of Turkish atrocity. The Secretary of the Servian Red Cross Society is said to be mutilated and killed, and other cruelties perpetrated, and the Turks are reported to have burnt forty villages.

No. 181.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 8, 3·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September* 8, 1876, 2 P.M.

GERMAN Government are strongly urging the Porte to accept an armistice. German Minister for Foreign Affairs says that no conditions of peace can be discussed without it.

No. 182.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 10.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August* 28, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of a despatch, with its two inclosures, which I have addressed to Sir Henry Elliot relative to the treatment of fourteen Servian prisoners who have been brought to Salonica from the front.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 182.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, August* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a letter, with its inclosure, which I have received from Eshref Pasha, Governor-General of Salonica, respecting fourteen Servian prisoners who have been brought here from the front, and who would wish their families in Servia to be informed that they are "alive and well."

Eshref Pasha asks me to communicate on the subject with Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General for Servia, but I told him that I would refer his request to your Excellency.

I should report that these prisoners on their arrival here last week, late in the night, were conducted to the citadel, where they were put in an old damp store or magazine, scarcely fit for human beings; but early next morning Eshref Pasha had them removed to a room in the Government House, gave to each a change of linen, and sent them to the public baths.

They receive their rations regularly, and, in all other respects, are treated with humanity and attention by Eshref Pasha.

I have been indirectly told, but cannot say how far it is true, that while the regular troops treat their prisoners well, the Bashi-Bazouks give no quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

Inclosure 2 in No. 182.

Eshref Pasha to Consul Blunt.

(Traduction.) *August* 24, 1876.

LES prisonniers Serbes qui sont actuellement à Salonique désirent que leurs familles en Serbie soient informés qu'ils se trouvent ici sains et bien portant.

Je m'empresse donc de vous transmettre ci-joint une liste nominale de ces prisonniers, vous invitant de vouloir bien prier M. le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique en Serbie de satisfaire, si c'est possible, leur désir.

(Signé) ESHREF, *Gouverneur-Général.*

(Translation.)

August 24, 1876.

THE Servian prisoners who are now in Salonica wish that their families in Servia should be informed that they are here safe and in good health.

I hasten, therefore, to forward to you herewith a list of the names of these prisoners, and beg you to request Her Majesty's Consul in Servia to comply with their wishes i it be possible.

(Signed) ESHREF, *Governor-General.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 182.

NAMES of Servian Prisoners brought to Salonica.

Names.	Of what District.
Colosto Sotchitch	Cranovitch.
Istafan Alexi	Stodanitcha.
Milivoi Sigoria	Tchatolicali.
Yovan Istifan	Ditto.
Istifan Petro	Tchehatch.
Milivoi Mila	Ova.
Hristo Nicola	Ostritcha.
Alpa Costi	Ditto.
Akin Nicola	Ditto.
Obert Mila	Ova.
Bikio Alexi	Ostritcha.
Maxim Petro	Dragatchavo.
Marico Yovantcha	Urkiup.
Vassil Protich	Gotchanitza.

No. 183.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August* 28, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship the extract from a letter which I have received from an English gentleman who has recently visited Uscup and Mitrovitza, alluding to the great activity which reigns in those districts in connection with the war and to the conduct of the Bashi-Bazouks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 183.

Extract from a recent Letter from Mitrovitza.

I REMARKED during my trip up the line that the greatest activity prevails all over the country; provisions of every description are being dispatched from nearly all the stations to Mitrovitza, the head-quarters of the armies acting against Servia and Montenegro on this side. Large wooden stores have been erected near the railway-station for the reception of supplies arriving by rail, which are forwarded on to Jeni-bazaar, and further on by means of pack-horses. More than 3,000 of these horses have been sent from the interior by the railway.

This railway has been of very great use to the Government, and the local authorities have repeatedly expressed their great satisfaction to the manager and his staff.

While here I can easily see that the closing of the port of Klek has given the place (Mitrovitza) a sudden and great importance.

I have met but few Bashi-Bazouks, and in answer to your inquiries about their conduct I beg to say that their excesses, of which they had been accused, and which, according to my information, consisted generally in housebreaking and horse and cattle stealing, must be attributed to their bad organization—they were generally starving. However, the severe punishment of the guilty ones, and other measures taken by the Commander-in-chief, soon put a stop to their mischief.

By order of the Commander-in-chief these Bashi-Bazouks are always sent to the front; they have in consequence already sustained severe losses. If properly disciplined and under the control of good officers there is no doubt that they could rank with the best soldiers.

No. 184.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 10, 1876.

INSTRUCTIONS were sent last night to Count Zichy to urge the Porte not to decline assenting to an armistice.

No. 185.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 10, 1876, 3·50 PM.

DECISION of the Porte not to agree to an armistice will be communicated to us to-morrow. Ministers are unanimous and determined. They will state conditions of peace that they expect.

These are—

1. A new investiture of the Prince, if the Servians wish to keep him as their ruler.

2. Recognition of right to occupy fortresses; but Porte will be willing to negotiate with respect to effect to be given to it.

3. Payment by Servia of the interest on the sum spent by Turkey in the war, which is estimated at about a million.

4. Railway through Servia to be worked by a Turkish company, but if this proposal is objected to by the Powers, Porte is prepared to submit.

5. Limitation of Servian regular army, and the entire suppression of the militia.

If these conditions are agreed to, the Porte will at once order suspension of all military operations, upon similar orders being given by Servian Government to their commanders.

No. 186.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 10, 1876, 7·15 P.M.*

HAVING perceived that some of my colleagues suspected that I was not pressing the proposed mediation on the Porte, I yesterday read to the Austrian Ambassador my letter to the Foreign Minister, conveying to him the substance of your telegram of the 6th. He at once declared that it was quite impossible for anyone to use stronger language than I had employed in urging the acceptance of the mediation, and in deprecating the intention of the Porte to put forward objectionable conditions of peace. At his earnest request I allowed him to have a copy of the letter, as he said Count Andrassy would be delighted to have this proof of what the action of Her Majesty's Embassy has recently been, which, it is easy to perceive, has been totally misrepresented.

No. 187.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 10, 1876.*

I AM informed by Italian Ambassador that his Government have instructed their Representative to express to the Porte their surprise that Turkey should continue to press on military operations in Servia and Montenegro, without taking notice of the European offer of mediation. He is directed to call the attention of the Turkish Ministers to the consequences of this course, and to state that if it is persisted in, Italy must decline all responsibility for the results. The Italian Government ask for our co-operation.

In reply to this communication I have told General Menabrea the substance of my instruction to you of the 6th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 188.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 5, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot to-day.

Protection for aid to Red Cross obtained by Russia and Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 188.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, September 5, 1876.*

I WAS instructed on the 24th ultimo, by telegraph by the Earl of Derby, to inform Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, V.C.M.P., that "Porte is evidently afraid of not being able to protect effectually the persons arriving to give aid to the wounded from the irregular troops. In a war such as this the Red Cross is a dangerous distinctive sign, and liable to be misunderstood by the wild hordes of Mussulmans who are with the enemy."

M. Kartzoff and Prince Wrede have both told me that the Porte has since given positive assurances to the Governments of Russia and Austria on the subject of protec-

* Substance telegraphed, and repeated to Embassies.

tion to persons and ambulances wearing the distinctive signs of the Red Cross, in accordance with the stipulations of the Geneva Convention.

It is to be hoped that if this decision has been arrived at subsequently, in consequence of the representations of the two other Powers, our Society will derive from it the fullest protection of life, limb, and property.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 189.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 11.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 5*, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of my despatch of this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, respecting reported new atrocities in Bulgaria.

I have the honour likewise to forward the German text of the article of the "Politische Correspondenz," which I have made a précis in my despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 189.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, September 5*, 1876.

THE Austrian "Politische Correspondenz," published under the patronage of the Viennese Foreign Office, has inserted a letter from Adrianople, dated the 25th ultimo, possibly emanating from the Austrian Consulate there, and relating some fresh outrages committed in that district.

According to this statement the Circassians had a fortnight previously plundered and partly burnt a suburb of Yamboli called Karbuna, and had ravished and robbed eight women there.

It is further related that 800 Circassians, led by Hafus Aga and Galib Bey, pillaged the village of Kara-Bunar, consisting of 230 houses, situated three hours' distance from Yamboli, and destroyed by fire eighty houses there and murdered twenty-three Bulgarians.

This report looks as if proceeding from an official source, and says that the above barbarities have been repeated in other places in that vilayet, and gives a most gloomy picture of the misery spreading in that locality; it likewise speaks of the liberation from prison of 270 Bulgarians, some of whom had been tortured whilst there, and of the recent prohibition published in the vilayet threatening severe punishment on all Bulgarians giving information to strangers with regard to any recent occurrences in that Province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 190.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September* 11.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 6 Septembre*, 1876.

BLACQUE BEY et Youvantcho Effendi, dont je vous ai annoncé la mission en Bulgarie, sont de retour et ils nous ont présenté leur rapport, qui vous sera bientôt communiqué.

En attendant je crois devoir vous dire, pour votre information, que le chiffre des morts indiqué dans ce rapport est de 3,100 Chrétiens et 400 Musulmans pour tout le vilayet d'Andrinople.

Ces chiffres sont le résultat d'un examen minutieux et statistique.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 6, 1876.

BLACQUE BEY and Youvantcho Effendi, of whose mission to Bulgaria I have informed you, have returned and have handed to us their report, which will be shortly communicated to you.

In the meantime I think it well to state to you, for your information, that the number of deaths, as laid down in the report, amount to 3,100 Christians and 400 Mussulmans in the whole Vilayet of Adrianople.

These figures are the result of a minute and statistical examination.

No. 191.

Count Andrassy to Count Wolkenstein.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Wolkenstein, September 11.)

(Télégraphique.)

M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique, pour répondre au désir que lui en a témoigné le Cabinet de Sa Majesté la Reine, vient de charger M. le Comte de Zichy de s'associer aux démarches à faire derechef à Constantinople en vue de pourvoir à la conclusion d'un armistice. L'Ambassadeur d'Autriche-Hongrie près la Sublime Porte doit se prononcer pour une suspension d'armes dont la durée ne serait pas moindre que d'un mois.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

HIS Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, responding to the wish expressed to him by the Cabinet of Her Majesty the Queen, has directed M. le Comte de Zichy to join in the steps to be again taken at Constantinople to provide for the conclusion of an armistice.

The Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at the Sublime Porte is to pronounce for a suspension of hostilities, the duration of which should not be less than one month.

No. 192.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord, *Berlin, September* 9, 1876.

M. DE BULOW, whom I had occasion to see yesterday, expressed great satisfaction on behalf of the German Government at the pressure brought to bear by Her Majesty's Government on the Porte to induce it to accept the proposed armistice. His Excellency said that in the opinion of the German Government, peace could not be discussed without a cessation of hostilities, and that the instructions furnished to the German Ambassador at Constantinople were in that sense; "but," added M. de Bülow, "any further loss of time may seriously complicate matters."

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 193.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord, *Paris, September* 10, 1876.

M. DESPREZ, the Director of Political Affairs in the French Foreign Office, brought me this morning a message from the Duc Decazes, who is still at Vichy.

The Duke, he said, looked upon the conduct of the Porte with regard to the proposal to it to agree to an armistice as unsatisfactory and indeed alarming. The immediate response appeared to have been a more vigorous prosecution of hostilities both against Servia and against Montenegro.

No formal answer had yet been given to the Representatives at Constantinople, but reports, which seemed to have some foundation, prevailed, according to which the Porte

proposed to insist upon conditions of peace as preliminaries to an armistice, and upon conditions which could not possibly be allowed by the Powers. It appeared, indeed, that the Turkish Ministers were either unaware of the extremely critical state in which the Empire was placed at this moment, or were purposely blinding themselves to it. The consequences of their persevering in their present pretensions might be fatal to Turkey and to the peace of Europe. It seemed impossible that the Porte could dally with the danger in the way it was doing, if it did not still cherish the hope that at the last extremity its old friends would come to its assistance. It seemed to the Duc Decazes essential to dispel this delusion.

The Duke had accordingly sent by telegraph instructions to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to inform the Turkish Minister that the French Government regarded with sorrow and displeasure ("amertume") the delay of the Porte in agreeing to the proposal for an armistice. The Ambassador was, moreover, to say distinctly that the Porte must not look for any help from France in extricating itself from the dangers which must inevitably follow any further delay. He was to add that France will certainly not consent to any conditions which would change the situation assigned to Servia by the Treaties, and that the conditions of peace which the Porte is stated to have in contemplation are wholly inadmissible.

M. Desprez concluded by saying again that the Duc Decazes considered it to be of the utmost importance that the Porte should be made to see that if it resisted the conclusion of an immediate armistice, it would have nothing whatever to hope from France or England.

I answered that your Lordship had sent the most serious warnings to the Porte, and that if the Turkish Ministers persisted in their delusions or their delays, it would certainly not be from any lack of plain language and earnest remonstrances on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 194.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 11, 1876, 4 P.M.

RUSSIAN Consul-General at Ragusa has telegraphed as follows to Prince Gortchakow, dated yesterday, from head-quarters of Prince of Montenegro:—

"Prince of Montenegro, on receiving intelligence from Servia that the Porte rejects armistice and will make its own conditions of peace—hostilities being continued—has addressed a note to Agents accredited to him, in which he requests their Governments to consider an armistice as an indispensable prelude to peace. The military position of Montenegro precludes a dictation of peace by the Porte, whose conditions will probably be unacceptable.

"His Highness, therefore, requests the Six Powers to address a formal demand to the Turkish Government imposing armistice, and to meet immediately in Conference to decide, in concert with Principalities and Turkey, on the question of peace, and the future position of the Christian population in Turkey. Prince hopes the Powers will take his request into consideration, and act promptly thereon."

No. 195.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 11, 1876.

FRESH outrages are reported to have been committed by Turkish troops in Servia on women and wounded men. Your Excellency will ascertain through Sir A. Kemball whether there is any truth in those reports, and, if true, you will make a strong representation to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 196.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 11, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and asked me whether Her Majesty's Government had received information of the rejection by the Porte of the proposal for an armistice.

I replied that we had no positive intelligence to that effect, though your Excellency's reports did not leave us much hope of the proposal being accepted.

I then stated to Count Schouvaloff the terms which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, might properly form the basis of a pacification, and I authorized him to communicate them to his Government.

They were, I said, the following :—

The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

Administrative reforms, in the nature of local autonomy for Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

Guarantees of some similar kinds (the exact details of which might be reserved for later discussion) against the future maladministration of Bulgaria.

Her Majesty's Government would regard as inadmissible any modification of the Treaty of Paris unfavourable to Servia, the resumption of the right to garrison Servian fortresses, or the deposition of Prince Milan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY

No. 197.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 11, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and asked me whether Her Majesty's Government had received information of the rejection by the Porte of the proposal for an armistice.

I replied that we had no positive intelligence to that effect, though Sir H. Elliot's reports did not leave us much hope of the proposal being accepted.

I then stated to Count Schouvaloff the terms which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, might properly form the basis of a pacification, and I authorized him to communicate them to his Government.

They were, I said, the following :—

The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

Administrative reforms, in the nature of local autonomy, for Bosnia and the Herzegovine.

Guarantees of some similar kind (the exact details of which might be reserved for later discussion) against the future mal-administration of Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 198.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.— (Received September 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 11, 1876.

ALTHOUGH I did not use your Lordship's name in urging Count Andrassy to support your renewed representations to the Porte in favour of an armistice, he appears to have understood that I was acting under instructions from your Lordship, and I have to-day received a letter from Count Orczy stating that he has been desired to inform me that as your Lordship seems to attach importance to Count Andrassy sending further instructions to Count Zichy, he has done so.

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* Substance telegraphed.

No. 199.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 11, 1876, 9·30 P.M.

EVERY argument for the armistice has been exhausted, and refusal of Porte to agree to it is not to be shaken.

I hope, however, that I have succeeded in obtaining modification of answer that is to be returned to us, and that Porte will declare its readiness at once to suspend hostilities upon being informed that Powers will take into consideration the conditions mentioned in my telegram of yesterday. These conditions will not be given as a necessary basis of peace, but it will lie with the mediating Powers to accept or reject them after suspension of hostilities.

Rejection of armistice being irrevocable, I made this suggestion on my own authority, as offering only escape out of difficulty that I could devise, and as I have secured the assent of the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, it will probably pass the Council of Ministers.

No. 200.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September* 12.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 10 *Septembre*, 1876.

PAR un Acte Impérial lu aujourd'hui solennellement à la Sublime Porte, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan confirme tous les Ministres et fonctionnaires de l'Empire. Le Rescrit Souverain insiste principalement sur la répartition de la justice, le contrôle des finances, la propagation de l'instruction publique, et les réformes administratives en général, bases fondamentales du progrès et de la civilisation des peuples. Notre auguste maître prescrit à ses Ministres l'adoption de toutes les mesures commandées par les exigences de l'époque, et l'institution d'un Conseil Général, qui aura à veiller à l'élaboration des nouvelles lois de l'Empire, et au Budget des recettes et des dépenses du pays. Il établit la responsabilité et la stabilité de tous les fonctionnaires, engage le Ministère à rechercher les moyens de mettre fin un moment plus tôt aux maux de la guerre qui désolent les populations d'une seule et même patrie, et recommande le respect rigoureux des Traités existant avec les Puissances amies. Je vous transmettrai par courrier la traduction du Hatt Impérial.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 10, 1876.

BY an Imperial Act solemnly read to-day at the Sublime Porte, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan confirms all the Ministers and functionaries of the Empire. The Royal Decree chiefly insists upon the proper apportionment of justice, the control of the finances, the diffusion of public education, and administrative reforms in general, as being the basis and foundation of the progress and civilization of nations. Our August Master enjoins his Ministers to adopt all the measures called for by the necessities of the times, and to establish a General Council, whose duty it will be to see to the elaboration of the new laws for the Empire, and to the national Budget of Receipts and Expenditure. He establishes the responsibility and continuance in office of all functionaries, invites the Ministry to devise means of putting an end with as little delay as possible to the miseries of war which now afflict the people of one and the same country, and enjoins the strict observance of the Treaties in force with friendly Powers. I will forward to you by messenger a translation of the Imperial Hatt.

No. 201.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

My Lord, *Paris, September* 10, 1876.

SINCE I sent off my previous despatch of this day, M. Desprez, the Director of Political Affairs in the French Foreign Office, has paid me a second visit.

He tells me that after having made me acquainted with the instructions which the Duc Decazes had sent to the French Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the delay of the Porte in agreeing to the armistice, he communicated these instructions to M. Ressman, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires. Your Lordship will remember that the principal point in them is the warning to be given to the Porte that it must not expect any help from France, to extricate itself from the danger into which it will infallibly fall if it delay any longer to assent to a suspension of hostilities. M. Desprez informs me that he is assured by M. Ressman that similar instructions have been sent by the Italian Government to its Representatives at Constantinople.

M. Desprez has just received intelligence of an application made by the Prince of Montenegro to the Consuls with whom His Highness is in communication, requesting them to move their respective Governments to obtain, in his behalf, an armistice from the Porte.

I understand from M. Desprez that the Duc Decazes is likely to come back to Paris to-morrow or the day after.

I have transmitted the substance of this despatch to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 202.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 12, 1876.

THE French Ambassador called here on the 7th instant. He said that he had heard from Constantinople that the Porte absolutely rejects an armistice, and proposes the following conditions of peace with Servia :—

1. Revocation of the Firman of 1867 relative to fortresses, or else their destruction.
2. Election of a Prince without exclusion of Prince Milan.
3. Indemnity for villages destroyed on Turkish territory.
4. Revocation of Article XXIX of Treaty of Paris (forbidding armed intervention in Servia without the consent of the Treaty Powers).
5. Reduction of the Servian militia.

The French Government, his Excellency said, wished to know the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon these demands.

His Excellency was informed that Her Majesty's Government had not received any similar information.

I am unable to give an opinion upon hypothetical conditions, but if they give rise to any discussion, your Excellency may say that Her Majesty's Government would consider the above-mentioned terms inadmissible.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 203.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 12, 1876, 11·30 A.M.

COMMISSIONERS sent by the Porte to inquire into the excesses committed in Bulgaria having made a report on the outrages, the principal leaders of Bashi-Bazouks are ordered to be arrested and will be brought to trial at once.

The Governor-General of Adrianople is dismissed for having ordered general arming

of Mahometans, or rather for having maintained that measure after the necessity for it had passed, although the Grand Vizier asserts that the person really responsible for it was Mahmoud Pasha, who, acting under the influence of Russian Ambassador, refused to send the troops applied for by the authorities, which would have rendered the employment of the irregulars unnecessary.

No. 204.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12, 3·24 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 12, 1876, *noon.*

I HAVE instructed Sir A. Kemball to inform me whether there is any truth in the reports of fresh outrages in Servia, as directed by your telegram of yesterday.

He had reported to me that great depredations have been committed by the Turkish irregulars, against which he strongly remonstrated, but that no case of outrage on women or mutilation of the wounded has come before his notice.

I have strongly supported at the Porte Sir H. Kemball's remonstrances, and orders in the most stringent terms were at once sent to Commander-in-chief.

No. 205.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 12, 1876, 2·30 P.M.

TURKISH Consular Agents report that very large contracts are being made for corn and hay in Bessarabia, and that troops, without being increased in number, are being concentrated near Moldavian frontier. Leave is refused to all men belonging to the reserve, with the exception of such as volunteer for Servia.

No. 206.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Baden, near Vienna, September* 12, 1876.

I HAVE acquainted Count Andrassy with the substance of your telegram to Sir H. Elliot stating the provisions which Her Majesty's Government think ought to form the basis of pacification. On the inadmissibility of any modification of the Treaty of Paris unfavourable to Servia, and of the resumption of a right to garrison her fortresses, he said that all the Powers were agreed. He objects, however, to autonomy in Bosnia and the Herzegovina as impracticable for reasons he has already stated. He said that all the Powers had accepted the reforms of the December note and Russia again adhered to them at Reichstadt, and they will secure greater advantages to Provinces than autonomy can offer. He also objects to stipulating for reforms in Bulgaria, as there are many reasons why the Porte should refuse such a proposal; and he would, therefore, only ask, as a guarantee against future outrages against the Christians, for an engagement that regular troops should be alone employed in Bulgaria and the other European Provinces of the Empire. He said that the Russian Ambassador had just been urging the necessity of imposing an armistice on the Porte, independently of the conditions of peace, whereas he wished the Powers to agree on the conditions of peace, and to impose an armistice and peace simultaneously. I asked him how he could impose them if the Porte refused, and he answered by employing force—which could be easily done by a naval demonstration at Constantinople. An occupation of Turkish territory would lead to war, the limits of which could not be foreseen, but conditions dictated by a combined fleet at Constantinople would be accepted. I said that he forgot that such a fleet would have to pass the Dardanelles, and forcing the passage would be equally the commencement of war. He

* Repeated to Embassies.

said that something, however, must be done, as large numbers of Herzegovinian refugees and Montenegrins are now seeking refuge on Austrian territory, and these persons must be enabled to return home before the winter.

No. 207.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Baden, near Vienna, September* 12, 1876.

WHEN speaking of Bulgaria, as reported in a previous telegram to-day, Count Andrassy said the measures proposed by the Powers in Bosnia and the Herzegovina might be assented to by the Porte as a man consents to the amputation of a diseased limb, but no one will consent to the excision of his backbone. The Porte is not likely to agree to give Bulgaria, with its mixed population and its geographical position, an exceptional semi-independent system of administration.

No. 208.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 12, 1876, 11·30 P.M.

I AM informed, though not officially, that Grand Council convened to consider suggestion contained in my telegram of yesterday approved it. Austrian Ambassador has expressed himself warmly in favour of it.

No. 209.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 13.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September* 5, 1876.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday (the text of which is recorded in my preceding despatch of that date) respecting the movements of Moukhtar Pasha, I have the honour to state that the Marshal left Trebigné on Saturday to resume offensive operations against Montenegro. I am not able to give your Lordship positive details as to the force under his command. From Turkish sources I hear that he has, or speedily will have, with him as many as thirty-seven or thirty-eight battalions; while the Russian information is that he has but twenty, and those very weak. There were eighteen battalions at Trebigné last week; and Danish Effendi assures me that twenty more have arrived, or are arriving; and of these latter it is possible that the Russians have no information. At any rate the Marshal has thought himself strong enough to cross the frontier and to burn three villages in the district of Grahovo, where a Montenegrin force is collecting to oppose him. A battle may be looked for in that quarter at any moment.

Dervish Pasha will advance, or has already advanced, from the Albanian side; and the Principality is thus simultaneously menaced on its northern and southern frontiers.

The Turks are undoubtedly in very superior force; but I should not be surprised to hear of their failure, for the Montenegrins are on their own ground, and are supported by the insurgents and by all the hill tribes, the Bocchese, and the Krivoscians.

It seems, however, that in view of the possibility of an armistice the Porte has decided to use every effort to secure a lodgment on Montenegrin territory before any arrangement for a suspension of hositlities can take effect.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 210.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1876.

I HAVE to instruct you to express to the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs the satisfaction felt by Her Majesty's Government at the prudent and pacific attitude which the Government of Prince Charles have assumed in the present conflict between Servia and the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government entirely concur in the opinion entertained by M. Jonesco that peace and tranquillity are essential for the welfare and progress of the United Principalities, and they trust that the policy which he considers Roumania should pursue will be firmly maintained.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 211.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 13, 1876, 4·45 P.M.

I SAW Baron Orczy to-day, as Count Andrassy had gone to the German Embassy, and I acquainted him with the substance of your telegrams of yesterday.

A telegram was received to-day, stating that the Sultan had ordered the answer proposed by the Ministers to be revised in a second Council; and I said that the modifications in it hoped for by Sir H. Elliot have probably been submitted to this Council, or perhaps even your Lordship's suggestions for a base of pacification. Baron Orczy is personally of opinion that an answer so amended would not be received as satisfactory by the Powers, and I replied that your Lordship has expressed no opinion on it, and would doubtless wait to see its precise terms before doing so.

No. 212.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and repeated to me the substance of two telegrams which he had received from Prince Gortchakow.

The first of these, dated the 11th instant, stated that, in the opinion of the Russian Government, the Great Powers ought to insist categorically on an immediate armistice, without allowing the Porte to attach any conditions to it. Our first duty, the Prince says, is to put a stop to bloodshed. On this point the Russian Government are inflexibly resolved; and they trust sincerely that they may not be compelled to act singly against the Turks, for the state of the Empire and the expressions of public opinion make it imperative on them to put an end to the horrors which insurrection and war have occasioned.

In a second telegram, dated the 12th instant, Prince Gortchakow replies to the communication I had made to him, through Count Schouvaloff, as to the terms which might properly be adopted as a basis for peace. His Highness states that he agrees on the following points:—

An unconditional armistice, pure and simple.

The *status quo ante bellum* for Servia and Montenegro. The Russian Government foresee, however, that territorial concessions to the latter Principality will become inevitable.

In Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria liberal concessions of local or administrative autonomy.

The last of these conditions should not, in the opinion of the Russian Government,

be merely advised, but ought to be categorically imposed upon the Porte. The dignity of all Europe, Prince Gortchakow says, does not allow of our contenting ourselves with promises which the Porte constantly eludes.

Count Schouvaloff accompanied these communications by a few words as to the gravity of the situation, and the impossibility of allowing the Turkish Government to ignore the collective demand of Europe for an armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 213.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September* 6, 1876.

WITH reference to the neutrality of the ports in the Bocche di Cattaro, I have the honour to state that I yesterday asked Danish Effendi, the Turkish Consul-General, whether he had reason to believe that any contraband of war had been recently passed through those ports on Montenegrin account.

Danish Effendi said that he had received trustworthy information that some dynamite and electrical apparatus had quite lately been forwarded through Cattaro for use in the Principality. He would not give me the name of his informant, and I have no means of verifying the statement, which, however, is likely enough to be true.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 214.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 2, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to state that I have instructed Her Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade to take what steps he considered advisable to give effect to the wishes of the Servian prisoners in communicating to their families, as far as he finds practicable, their safe arrival at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 215.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 3, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward the copy of a Memorandum which I put this morning into the hands of Safvet Pasha, in execution of your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of the 1st, which I received yesterday, proposing to the Porte a suspension of hostilities.

The mention of the application made by Prince Milan to the Guaranteeing Powers for their good offices, which is given in the words of your Lordship's telegram of the 1st instant, was inserted on account of the great anxiety of the Porte not to be supposed to have taken the initiative in asking for peace.

It was more desirable that this should be clearly stated from the anxiety of the Russian Government to make it appear that the proposal for mediation came, not from Prince Milan, but from Her Majesty's Government.

Prince Gortchakow spoke of it to Cabouli Pasha in this manner, and M. Nelidow has several times done the same here.

Before I gave the message to Safvet Pasha I had a conversation with Midhat Pasha on the subject, but I could not see the Grand Vizier, who is unwell.

The feelings of both Ministers (and also, I am bound to say, universally entertained by the public), are strongly against the acceptance of an armistice which is regarded as being wholly favourable to the interests of Servia, and detrimental to those of Turkey.

They argue that only a short period remains of the season during which it is possible to carry on military operations, and if it should be lost in an armistice, by which Servia should be enabled to continue to receive the men and supplies which are being poured into her by Russia, the position of this country will become intolerable.

They would be ready to treat for peace on very moderate terms, but they declare that it seems impossible to suspend their operations and their advance into Servia until they know the basis of the peace to be proposed.

It would be unjust not to recognize the force of these arguments, which are, in fact, only to be met by representing that a suspension of hostilities appears to be the only means of averting greater evils than those which are to be expected from its rejection, and the open rupture with Russia, which will hardly be avoided.

When I assured the Ministers that if the armistice was agreed upon peace was almost certain to follow, it seemed to give them little satisfaction, as they did not know what conditions they might be next asked, or required to consent to.

They appeared to feel that an armistice might, it is true, make it necessary to conclude a peace, in which they would be hardly allowed a voice.

It would, in fact, be dictated by the Great Powers, in whose sense of justice, after recent experience, they feel no great confidence.

Their language to-day gave me less expectation than I had before entertained, that they would be induced to accept the proposal of the Powers, and there will certainly be very great difficulty about it, unless some intimation can be given to them of the conditions or basis of a peace which the Powers would consider fair.

The slow progress of their arms in Servia, and the undoubted reverses which they have met with from the Montenegrins, have hitherto done little to diminish their confidence in being able to reduce the two Principalities to accept their conditions.

They are perfectly aware that they could not carry on a war with Russia with the slightest prospect of success, and yet they seem ready to risk the utter ruin it would bring upon them rather than give way to the representations of the united Cabinets of Europe.

It is true that they do not believe any one of these countries to be animated by care for their interests, with the single exception of Great Britain; and the influence of Her Majesty's Government over them has, within the last few weeks, been impaired by the tone of the debates in Parliament and of the public press.

As long as they could hope that, after following our advice, they had more chance of material support from us, if the necessity for it should arise, our words had more weight with them than can be expected when they believe that we should rather abandon them to be dealt with by their enemies, than interfere actively in their behalf.

Nevertheless, our influence is still unquestionably great, and it is the exercise of this alone which may determine the acceptance of the armistice; and I am so fully satisfied as to the fatal consequences likely to ensue from the rejection of the proposal, that your Lordship may rest assured that, as far as depends upon me, it shall be exerted to the utmost.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 215.

Memorandum.

LE Prince de Serbie ayant demandé aux Puissances Garantes leurs bons offices pour obtenir la conclusion de la paix entre la Sublime Porte et la Serbie, et dans ce but d'obtenir une prompte cessation d'hostilités, l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique a reçu de son Gouvernement le télégramme suivant, en date du 1 Septembre, 1876:—

" J'ai à vous prescrire de proposer immédiatement au Gouvernement Turc un armistice d'au moins un mois, ayant pour objet la discussion immédiate des conditions de la paix. L'armistice devrait comprendre tous les combattants."

(Translation.)

THE Prince of Servia having requested the good offices of the Guaranteeing Powers, with a view to obtain the conclusion of peace between the Sublime Porte and Servia, and with this object a prompt cessation of hostilities, the Ambassador of Her Britannic Majesty has received the following telegram from his Government, dated September 1, 1876:—

"I have to instruct you to propose immediately to the Turkish Government an armistice of not less than a month, with a view to the immediate discussion of the conditions of peace. The armistice should include all combatants."

No. 216.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* , 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch from Sir Arnold Kemball respecting the operations of the Turkish army before Alexinatz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 216.

Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Nisch, August* 25, 1876.

HAVING left Constantinople on the morning of the 19th I arrived here with my party on the 23rd instant.

We travelled by rail to Tatar Bazardjik, the want of night trains compelling me to stop the first evening at Adrianople, and from Tatar Bazardjik to Nisch in post carriages.

Barring two or three bridges carried away by flushes, after they had been shaken by heavy traffic, the road is excellent throughout, nor were the post horses more exhausted, and the vehicles more shattered, to our frequent detention, than was to be expected on the sole line of communication with the front. I may observe by the way that to Midhat Pasha's rule, while Governor-General of Roumelia, the country is indebted at this juncture for the good roads and facilities of transit above described. The broken bridges are under repair.

I announced my arrival here to your Excellency by subjoined telegram, which, however, owing to the Chief of the Department refusing cypher, was not, it seems, wired until yesterday afternoon, and this morning I dispatched to your Excellency subjoined telegram prepared since my visit to the camp before Alexinatz, distant 16 miles.

The opposition of the Servians to the advance of Ali Saib Pasha, down the left bank of the Morava, had not evidently been serious. Their intrenchments were insignificant, and their resistance apparently directed to ascertain the strength of the Turkish force in their front; the main expeditionary corps under Ahmed Eyoub Pasha being now at hand on their flank. This corps having retraced its steps from Gurgussowatz to Derbend had thence marched, halting two days on the way, across very difficult country, viâ Nisevac, along the skirts of the frontier to Alexinatz, where it effected its junction with Ali Saib Pasha, on Monday, the 21st instant.

I would here, once for all, deprecate complete reliance on dates and numbers not

within my own cognizance, replies to inquiries in these respects being usually too vague and contradictory to admit of absolute precision.

The strength of the united Turkish expeditionary force is stated at 38,500 regular troops of all arms with 188 field guns (including two mountain batteries of four guns each). That of the Servian army is unknown, but is variously estimated at from 30,000 to 50,000 men, nor could I learn anything definite of its distribution. Herein is evidenced the defective state of the intelligence department of the Turkish army. It seems to be exclusively dependent on the information to be gained from prisoners.

Though of course expecting the enemy to make a stand here, the Turkish Commanders were hardly, I think, prepared for the formidable character of the fortifications they had now in view; said to form only the outer defences on the southern face of a large entrenched camp, extending to a distance of six miles as far as Deligrad. To my description of it by telegraph, I have only to add that far worse troops than the Servians and less ably commanded should, in my opinion, hold indefinitely such a position against any odds whatever; much more so against the Turkish army, unprovided, as it is, with engineer department, siege train, bridge equipments, or other means and material generally requisite for conducting effectively the attack. The engineering is done by artillery officers, and is restricted to the construction of simple entrenchments with sunken batteries for field guns. Against a position naturally so strong and bristling with works, scientifically planned for mutual defence, a "coup de main" could hardly be successful without the intervention of accidents and contingencies of rare and exceptional occurrence in modern warfare. The greatest difficulty of the situation, and one with which the Turkish Commanders are fully impressed, consists therefore in the loss of time involved in regular approaches.

At present both armies are bivouacked in their respective lines, and while fine weather lasts they may be said to be operating on equal terms; but if the defence be protracted, when the autumnal rains set in, the Servians will possess this advantage over the Turks: that while for the former shelter will be provided on the spot for their ambulances, ordinance stores, and provisions, &c., the latter will be dependent for hospital accommodation and commissariat of all kinds upon their depôt at Nisch, distant sixteen to eighteen miles, with no better means of transport than the bullock-carts of the country, ill suited for heavy traffic.

Thus far the standing crops have afforded an ample supply of forage for the whole army, but as the season advances this supply must fail, and the intervening country, not here only, I am told, but along the whole line of frontier, from six to eight miles on either side, so far as villages are concerned, may be described as a desert.

The Servians began the work of desolation on Turkish soil for the purpose as well of harrying the Mahommedan inhabitants as of compelling the Christians to quit their fields and join the insurrection, and the Turks have completed it with like effect on Servian territory.

In this system of warfare neither party can claim any preference over the other in the point of moderation. The Turks may with truth plead provocation to justify a course not otherwise to be defended on the broader grounds of humanity and good policy, but in the interests of their own cause they will hardly be excused for resorting to such instruments as Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks to effect their purpose, and they must, on their own confession, be convicted of organizing retaliation without much regard for the obligations of civilized war.

Among the ordinary incidents to be encountered on the lines of communication of an army in the field in the shape of works stopped, villages deserted, &c.,* we met numerous bands of Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks escorting homewards herds of cattle, and flocks of sheep and goats, with loot in carts reaching nearly to Tatar-Bazardjik. These we found were severally furnished with passes from the Turkish authorities at head-quarters to certify that the plunder conveyed by them had been obtained from the enemy, and not from Bulgarian Rayahs; so significant a precaution marks the character of the agency employed, and proves the difficulty that would be experienced under a reverse or stress of any kind to keep it under control. Being entitled to bread and forage rations only (when in need of them) these marauders must look to plunder in lieu of pay for the requital of their services, and would not be particular in respect to the nationality or even religion of their victims.

Of these irregular troops not less than 30,000 of the latter and 10,000 of the former are said to have taken the field, and are being augmented by daily accretions. What portions of them wait upon the expeditionary force in this quarter cannot be very

* I was surprised to find to what extent the railway earthworks had been completed, and cut stone for bridges and viaducts everywhere collected, even up to Sofia.

accurately known, but they form, of course, the larger contingent. They roam in parties of greater or less strength on the fronts and on the flanks of the advancing forces, and gut and fire every village they find on their track. If murder and rapine may not be superadded to the charges against them, it is because the villages in question have invariably been deserted by their inhabitants. As regards their fighting qualities I have heard Turkish officers of rank declare that while the Bashi-Bazouks are almost useless, the Circassians are brave and reliable in action.

With regard to the progress of operations at Alexinatz, the Turkish Commanders, alive to the value of time, meditate a combined attack on the right and left flanks of the Servian position, to come off in a day or two.

It is probable that Ali Saib Pasha may defeat and temporarily drive away the Servian division opposed to him in the plain on the left bank of the Morava, but, as the ground he would then occupy must fall under the fire of the batteries at the *têtes-de-pont* in its rear, and of the batteries situated on the right of the Serbian position (all armed with heavy guns), he can hardly maintain himself permanently, nor, in the absence of fords and bridge materials, would he be in a position to cross the river in pursuit, and co-operate in the assault on the main line of defence. The result of the proposed attack upon the left of the Servian position may unhappily be predicted from the previous attempt, and from what I have said of the enfilade and flank fire that can be brought to bear upon it.

Yesterday afternoon, on our return from camp, we overtook 400 wounded regulars going to the Nisch hospitals in carts, a part of the 1,500 men who were struck down on the last occasion.

I purpose, in a day or two after the arrival of my horses, to take up my quarters permanently in the camp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

No. 217.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 5*, 1876.

A CONVERSATION which I had this afternoon with the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, would have satisfied me, if I had entertained any doubt on the subject, that his Government would do their utmost to prevent the conclusion of any peace between the Porte and Servia, and Montenegro, which was not arrived at through the mediation or intervention of the foreign Powers.

M. Nelidow spoke to me of a conversation which he had had in the morning with Midhat Pasha, who told him that while it would be impossible for the Turkish Government to consent to an armistice, they would be prepared to offer terms of pacification to to the Principalities, that the basis of peace might be agreed to in an hour.

Midhat Pasha appears to have spoken with great moderation and candour respecting Montenegro.

He said that he could not in fairness deny that the Montenegrins had obtained successes which entitled them to expect favourable conditions; and for his own part he was ready to admit that there were portions of territory, of no value to the Porte, but which, being of importance to the Principalities, it might be desirable to annex to it.

M. Nelidow, however, repelled, with much warmth, the notion of the Porte being permitted to make peace with the Principalities, without the previous concurrence of the Powers, who might not be disposed to regard the conditions as acceptable. It was even possible, he said, that conditions might be offered to Servia, with which that Principality might be satisfied; but the foreign Governments, or, at all events, his own, would never consent to see a peace made with Servia, which should leave the Porte free to turn its undivided strength against Montenegro.

I said, that I could not believe that the Powers, which are desirous of seeing an end put to the hostilities at the earliest possible period, could possibly object to the Porte concluding a peace on terms regarded as satisfactory by the two Principalities: and even in the event which he had hinted at as possible, of the conditions proposed to Prince Milan being regarded by him as sufficient, while Prince Nicholas was not satisfied with those offered to him, it appeared to me impossible that the Powers should insist that

Servia must continue fighting, for the sole object of obtaining better terms for Montenegro.

That Russia would attempt to prevent a separate peace from being made by Servia was always probable, but when we see the anxiety now displayed by her that peace should not be concluded with the two Principalities without the intervention of the Powers, it is impossible not to be convinced that an immediate pacification is not the principal object that she has in view.

This was indeed shown by a remark that fell from M. Nelidow a few days ago when speaking of the proposed armistice.

If it was agreed to, he said, the conditions of peace could be concerted at leisure by the Powers, who might, if they liked, have the whole winter to discuss them.

During this time it is evident that a drain upon the resources of Turkey must continue, and reduce her to a state of exhaustion.

Your Lordships will be able to form a more correct judgment than I can of the objects of the Russian Government, but I believe we should not be greatly mistaken in assuming them to be as follows:—

1. The conclusion of a peace through the mediation of the great Powers, which would give it enough of a European character to warrant an interference in the future questions which may arise between the Porte and the Principalities.

2. That the arrangements to be made respecting Bosnia and the Herzegovina should be so closely connected with the conditions of the peace as to amount to the European guarantee always advocated in favour of the insurgent provinces, against which Her Majesty's Government have throughout set their face.

3. Perhaps, an attempt to establish an autonomic vassal Principality in Bulgaria.

If this last proposition, which has been assiduously held before the eyes of the Bulgarians by Russian emissaries as the object to be kept in view, be once seriously advocated by the Russian Government, it will, even if rejected by all the other Powers, sow the seeds of much future trouble, and will raise to a high pitch in that province the influence of Russia, which is at present so seriously menaced by the failure of an insurrection which Turks and Bulgarians agree in looking upon as having been fomented by her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 218.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 5, 1876.*

THE proclamation of Abdul Hamid as Sultan passed with perfect tranquillity in this Capital, but without a vestige of the enthusiasm which greeted the accession of his brother Murad, exactly three months before.

This was perhaps no more than was to be expected, for, on the first occasion, the new Sultan was regarded as liberating the country from the rule of a Sovereign who was believed to be bringing it to ruin.

The character of Murad Effendi, as immediate heir to the Throne, had always been a question of general interest, and he was universally regarded as being of a kindly and well-intentioned disposition.

Hamid Effendi, whose prospects of ascending the Throne were more remote, and who had always led a reserved and prudent life, was little known to anyone, and his character was and still is unknown, though all that has recently been heard of it is favourable; and although the necessity of substituting him for his afflicted brother was universally acknowledged, the change could not call forth an appearance of general rejoicing.

Sultan Murad has been treated with every consideration and mark of respect.

The magnificent palace of Tcheragan, completed by Sultan Abdul Aziz only a few years ago, has been assigned to him as a residence, and he and his family are ordered to be treated with the honours due to a Sovereign.

As far as I can judge from the reports hitherto received from the provinces, the proclamation of the new Sultan appears to have been received in general with indifference, but here and there with a feeling of uneasiness. In some places, Sultan Abdul Hamid is credited with fanatical and retrograde views which alarm the Christians; and in others

where the condition of the late Sultan is not fully understood, the people ask the meaning of this new change of Sovereign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 219.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 5, 1876.

BY my despatch of the 26th ultimo I informed your Lordship of a massacre and outrage said to have been committed by some Turks upon a Christian village near Ipsala, and I said that, as the Ottoman authorities denied that anything of the kind had taken place, I had directed Mr. Dragoman Casolani to proceed to the spot to investigate the case.

I have now the satisfaction of transmitting to your Lordship a copy of his report, from which it appears that nothing whatever of the kind had occurred, or been heard of, either at the village in question or in its neighbourhood.

The report had caused considerable emotion here, and passed from mouth to mouth with the usual exaggerations upon the original statement, till at last it was declared that not less than sixty entire Christian families had been ruthlessly butchered.

This case offers a striking example of the care that is necessary in accepting, as true, even the accounts of massacres or atrocities, in which the persons recounting them profess to have been either victims or eye-witnesses.

The deposition of the young man who brought up the story was made in the presence of a number of respectable English gentlemen, who, after cross-questioning him, were perfectly convinced of its truth, and they sent him to me, when he repeated what he had before said with so much minuteness, that I was no less deceived than they had been.

Had it not been possible to investigate the truth of this story, it would have gone to add to the long list of atrocities, of which enough have been substantiated to to fix an indelible blot on the Turks, but of which very many others repose on no better foundation than this one of Ahirkioy, and would have been found, upon inquiry to be equally imaginary.

I have, &c
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 219.

Mr. Casolani to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Pera, September* 4, 1876.

IN obedience to your Excellency's instructions of 26th August, directing me to proceed, in company with the agent of the Minister of Police, to Ahirkioy, to spare no efforts to ascertain the facts of the occurrence reported by Pavlos, and to report everything of the nature described which may have taken place either at Ahirkioy or at any other place in the neighbourhood, at which outrages may appear to have occurred, I have the honour to state that I left Constantinople on the 27th ultimo with Riza Bey, the agent of the Minister of Police, and proceeding viâ Culili Bourghaz and Ferch, reached Ahirkioy on the 28th late in the afternoon.

The elders and other Christian inhabitants of the village, Greek as well as Bulgarian, were summoned before us. They were severally interrogated on the subject of the alleged outrage, and the statement of Pavlos, herewith returned, was perused, and afterwards explained to them in the Greek language. They appeared astounded at this recital, and declared unanimously the story to be untrue, and observed that the very name of Pavlos Michaelou did not exist on the roll of their village.

The villagers having been urged to state without fear any grievances they might have, said that about a month ago thirty-four Redifs (recruits), coming from Shahkiry on their way to join their battalion at Kumuldgina, within the jurisdiction of the Mutesarriflik of Gallipoli, had spent the night in their village, and there being neither

baker nor butcher, they had to supply them with bread and meat, for which no payment was made or offered, but that the men did not insult their women or otherwise misconduct themselves.

With a view to eliciting all possible information, I remained for the night in the village by myself—Riza Bey and the escort of mounted police left for Ipsara—and having entirely gained the confidence of the villagers, they at last communicated to me the following cases:—

That Kel Ahmed, a Turk of Ipsala, had, three months ago, gone to the cottage of Milosh, a Bulgarian of Ahirkioy, and during his absence, and his wife only being at home, forced the store and carried away 28 okes of cheese. That Kel Ahmed again entered the premises of Milosh, and by threats obliged him to give him 2 kilehs of oats. That Kel Ahmed on another occasion returned to Milosh's cottage when his wife was alone, and compelled her to give him 2½ kilehs of wheat, and that ultimately the same Turk robbed him of two Medjidrehs. That Kel Ahmed had also entered the mill of Stozan, a Bulgarian inhabitant, and taken away from him 2 kilehs of Indian corn-flour, worth 30 paras the oke. That Feizi, an Albanian of Ipsara, had robbed Braico, a Bulgarian, of 5 yards of white cotton cloth, and the villagers complained that the offenders had not been punished by the authorities.

On enquiry it, however, appeared that no complaint thereon had been lodged at the time with the Mudir of Ipsala, who, having incidentally heard of these cases of robbery, went on the 16th ultimo to Ahirkioy, and after investigation reported the matter to the Governor of Gallipoli, by whose orders the accused were arrested, and they were undergoing their trial at Kesdan.

A *procès-verbal* of our proceedings at Ahirkioy was, on the 20th ultimo, drawn up by Riza Bey. It was read and explained to the villagers, Greek as well as Bulgarian, who, without any hesitation, affixed their seals and marks to the document. Should your Excellency require this *procès-verbal*, I shall obtain a copy of it from the Minister of Police.

Riza Bey and myself also repaired to the only two other Christian villages within the jurisdiction of Ipsala, called Khidrikioz and Covoudjee Kioz, of which the inhabitants ignored the alleged occurrence at Ahirkioy, and they had no complaints to make against Mohammedans since the Bulgarian disturbances broke out.

Ahirkioy being under the jurisdiction of Gallipoli, Riza was instructed to communicate, on his way back to Constantinople, with the Governor. I therefore accompanied him thither, and this morning we arrived by the "Venus," one of the Austrian-Lloyd's steamers.

I may here be allowed to state that the Christian inhabitants of the villages on the road from Ahirkioy to Gallipoli, with whom I had opportunities of conversing freely, did not report to me a single case of misconduct towards them by Turks, and, indeed, they appeared to live on good terms with them.

It is but fair to state that, from all accounts, this satisfactory state of things in the Mutesarriflik of Gallipoli is mainly due to the tact and ability which Rashid Pasha, the Governor, appears to have displayed during the late events in the Vilayet of Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. CASOLANI.

No. 220.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of Mr. Baring's very full Report of his inquiries into the atrocities committed upon the Christians in Bulgaria, which it is unnecessary for me to accompany with many observations of my own.

It establishes only too clearly that the cruelties had been carried on on a scale fully sufficient to justify the indignation that they have called forth, although the number of victims given at one time at 60,000, and afterwards at 30,000, are fortunately shown to be vastly exaggerated.

Your Lordship will observe that although the accounts that were circulated of the brutal manner in which the insurrection was suppressed have been generally borne out, many of the especially sensational incidents reported, have been shown to be disproved, or very much over-coloured.

The worst case reported on by Mr. Baring is that of Batak, which equals or exceeds in horror any that had been alleged; but it had scarcely been heard of till discovered by him.

Your Lordship will be satisfied that Mr. Baring has performed his duties with the impartiality and conscientiousness that were to be expected of him.

I take also this opportunity of transmitting to your Lordship the copy of a letter which the United States' Minister has been good enough to communicate to me from Mr. Schuyler, the American Secretary of Legation and Consul-General, who was sent to make inquiries similar to those of Mr. Baring's.

He accompanied several newspaper correspondents, but I am told that none of the party had the advantage possessed by Mr. Baring of understanding Turkish, which most of the Bulgarians can speak, and they were necessarily a good deal at the mercy of the Bulgarian interpreter whom they took with them.

The inclosed Report of Chakir Bey, who had been sent by the Porte to make an inquiry in the vilayet of the Danube, is as unsatisfactory a document as could well be seen.

The Report of the Extraordinary Tribunal at Philippopolis is likewise inclosed.

In it will be found the programme of the insurgents, which the Turks affirm, and Mr. Baring believes, to be an authentic document.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 220.

Report by Mr. Baring on the Bulgarian Insurrection of 1876.

Origin and Outbreak.

ABOUT fourteen years ago the Bulgarian Committee was established at Bucharest for the purpose of fomenting insurrection in Bulgaria, and of wresting that rich province from the hands of the Turks, to add it to the great South Slavic Empire which schemers in Moscow and elsewhere have decided shall be built up on the ruins of the Austrian and Ottoman Empires.

Revolutionary ideas were not, however, at first received with enthusiasm by the Bulgarian people, who are a peaceful race, and who were, moreover, comparatively well treated by the Turkish authorities, who purposely fostered dissensions between them and the Greeks, fearing lest a too good understanding between the great sections of Rayahs might be fraught with danger for the peace of the Empire.

It was not, therefore, till 1867, during the Cretan insurrection, that the Bucharest Committee thought that the time had arrived for action; emissaries were despatched to find out the temper of the people, and to excite them, if possible, to rise; but the mission of these agitators failed signally, and they had to return to those that sent them, with the news that the Bulgarians were not yet fit to be admitted into the bosom of the Panslavic family.

From this period to the spring of 1875, the Slav propaganda was carried on steadily throughout the province by agitators and emissaries of every sort, and though, I am positively assured, the Turkish Government was perfectly well aware of the presence of these men, with that *insouciance* for passing events, which is one of the chief characteristics of the Sublime Porte, they never made the smallest attempt to arrest them, or to counteract the effect of the revolutionary ideas they were instilling into the minds of the people.

In the spring of 1875, the insurrection broke out in the Herzegovina. This was an opportunity not to be lost, and the emissaries made great efforts to get up a revolt, and actually succeeded in making a slight disturbance at Eski Zaghra in the month of October.

This revolution, or rather riot, ended in a miserable failure; all who had a hand in it vied with each other in betraying their neighbours, and the outbreak was quelled without the smallest difficulty.

It is somewhat curious to note that at that time certain mysterious "hodjas" who constantly frequented the mosques of Eski Jaghra and other towns, were loud in their denunciations of the authorities for showing what they declared to be a culpable leniency towards infidels, whose intention it evidently was to destroy the Mussulman faith, and they called upon all good Moslems to rise and massacre the unbelievers. One of these apostles becoming objectionably demonstrative at Slimnia, was arrested,

and upon being submitted to personal examination, was found to be no Moslem at all. This incident speaks for itself, as it is not difficult to devise from what quarter this pretended "hodja" had his instructions.

When the Andrassy Note was presented to the Porte a petition was drawn up in Bulgaria and sent to the Grand Vizier. It demanded for the Bulgarians—

The right of serving in the army instead of paying "bedel askerieh."

That half of the Government employés in the Province should be Bulgarians.

General Reduction of Taxation.

During 1875 it was evident to the Bucharest Committee that the position of the Ottoman Government was becoming critical, and also that heavy taxation had produced deep discontent among the Bulgarians; accordingly, on the $\frac{20\text{th February}}{3\text{rd March}}$ last, twenty fresh emissaries were sent into the country to make another attempt to bring about an insurrection. A man of the name of Benkowsky was to take the Sandjak of Philippopolis, while one Vankoff was to proceed to Eski-Zaghra. Their instructions were to appoint sub-Committees of ten in each of the towns and of four in the villages, a condition being made as regards the latter that the priest and schoolmaster should be *ex officio* members. This will explain the active part taken by these two classes of men in the late rising.

The schoolmasters are men who have many of them been educated in Russia, and are a strong example of the truth of the adage that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing." They have returned to their homes with a smattering of education and a mass of ideas respecting Panslavism in their heads; these ideas they have endeavoured to propagate, and the unfortunate people have now to thank them and their spiritual pastors for a large share of the miseries which have befallen them.

When the sub-Committees were formed they set about collecting money, and up to the $\frac{9\text{th}}{21\text{st}}$ March 1,450 Turkish pounds had been collected. On the $\frac{10\text{th}}{22\text{nd}}$ March an emissary was arrested at Sofia, but did not reveal the plans of his comrades. Money was sent to Constantinople and Bucharest for the purchase of arms, but for different reasons the orders were not executed, and the Committee had to content themselves with such old-fashioned and inferior weapons as they could collect in the Province.

On the $\frac{19\text{th}}{31\text{st}}$ March a meeting of eighty agitators took place at Otlou-keui, and the date of the general rising, which the Bucharest Committee had fixed for $\frac{18\text{th April}}{1\text{st May}}$, was postponed till after $\frac{1\text{st}}{13\text{th}}$ May.

The plan of action decided on was shortly as follows:—

To destroy as much of the railway as possible, including the bridge at Ouzoun Keupni.

To burn the rolling stock at Sarembey.

To set fire to Adrianople in a hundred and to Philippopolis in sixty places, and also to burn Sofia, Tatar-Bazardjik, Tchtiman, Isladi, and a number of villages.

To attack the Turkish and mixed villages, and to kill all Mussulmans who resisted and take their property.

To occupy certain important points, such as Avrat-Alan, Kalofer, Tchoukourlou, &c.

Bazardjik to be attacked with 3,000 men, and the Government stores seized.

The rising to be general and simultaneous.

Such Bulgarians as refused to join the insurrection to be forced into it, and their villages burnt.

On the $\frac{18\text{th April}}{1\text{st May}}$ another meeting was held at Metzka, when Benkowsky informed his comrades that their plans had been betrayed by one Nenko, and that the rising must consequently be precipitated. Accordingly obedient to his orders the people of Avrat-Alan and Otlou-keui rose and killed such Mussulmans as they could lay hands on, and erected some rough fortifications; other villages, such as Yeni-keui, &c., were visited by small bands of men with flags, who told the peasants they must leave their homes or otherwise the Turks would massacre them, and that a large Russian army was ready to cross the Balkan. At Zindjirli the priest, the schoolmaster, and some other men actually drove the inhabitants out and forced them to set fire to the village. In the neighbourhood of Otlou-keui four small Turkish villages forming what is known as the Yourouk-Mahallin were burnt, as was also the mixed village of Streldja, and a considerable number of Bulgarians from the neighbouring villages, repaired to Avrat-Alan and Otlou-keui. At the same time some slight preparation for resistance were made at Bratzigovo, Prasadum Dervent, and also apparently at Perousstitza, though what really took place in the latter village is involved in considerable mystery.

Benkowsky, leaving the neighbourhood of Otloukeui, went to Bellova, where he incited the people to rise, telling them that 1,500 men were to come from Batak, 2,000

from Bratzegovo, 1,000 from Teshtera, and 8,000 from Otloukeui, for the purpose of attacking Tatar-Bazardjik, and that they consequently need not fear their Turkish neighbours. He recommended all the peasants who came to him to burn their houses, as they would afterwards be rebuilt of marble. At Bellova there were seven zaptiehs, six at the railway station, and one employed in the "établissement des bois." Benkowsky gave orders that these men should be disarmed, and a body of insurgents proceeded to the station for the purpose, vowing vengeance, however, against an Arab zaptieh who had apparently ill-treated some of them. The zaptiehs resisted, the station was set on fire, and the six men were shot as they came out, the story about their having been smeared with petroleum and burnt being a simple invention. The other zaptieh was persuaded by some Europeans to offer no resistance, and, on his being taken into the presence of Benkowsky, the latter paid him the sum of 12*l.* 10*s.* Turkish for his horse, arms, and accoutrements, which were seized for the benefit of the Bulgarian insurgents.

These details were given to me by a gentleman who had business at Bellova, and who conversed with Benkowsky upon several occasions.

At Vetren, a village on the high road between Bazardjik and Sofia, the insurgents cut the telegraph wires, burnt the guard-house and small Turkish village of Palanka, and fired on the post and on some zaptiehs who were escorting Hassan Pasha's harem.

It is now necessary to glance at the measures taken by the Turks to suppress the insurrection.

Some of the village mudirs had reported to head-quarters that they thought a rising probable, but their warnings were unfortunately allowed to pass unheeded; accordingly, when the insurrection did break out, it found the authorities utterly unprepared.

On the $\frac{19\text{th April}}{1\text{st May}}$, Aziz Pasha, the Mutessarif of Philippopolis, proceeded to Bazardjik, where he stayed a day or two to procure information. He then left for Otloukeui with a few of the notables and about 100 guards.

This alarmed the population, and when, somewhat later in the day, a report was spread that the Pasha was surrounded, a general panic ensued; shops were shut, village people who had come with their bullock carts to the market fled, leaving everything behind them, and Mussulman women rushed about the streets crying "Giaour Guelmisch," "Moscow Guelmisch." The Turks immediately flew to arms, and the position of the Christians was most critical. The Kaimakam lost his head completely, and hid himself.

In the meantime, a train arrived with 400 regular troops, and Hafiz Pasha went about the town endeavouring to reassure the people, and prevented the Mussulmans from doing any mischief. In the evening some wounded gipsies arrived, saying that the Bulgarians were rising all over the country, which naturally increased the terror of the Mussulmans.

Aziz Pasha, who had not been surrounded, but who had been turned back by the alarming reports he had heard on the road, now returned to Bazardjik and told the Turkish notables, who went to remonstrate with him for his being too favourable to the Bulgarians, that had he but four battalions of regulars he could suppress the insurrection at once. This was most undoubtedly true, but, unfortunately, these four battalions were not forthcoming at that moment.

Aziz Pasha then went back to Philippopolis, and the Medjliss of Bazardjik got some 400 armed Turks in from the surrounding country for their protection, and sent orders to Achmet Agha, of Dospat, to march against Batak, where some Mussulmans had been killed, and the people were reported to be rising; which order he executed by utterly destroying the village on the 9th of May.

At Philippopoli there was also a considerable panic, but, perhaps, not such a one as at Bazardjik. The Vali of Adrianople, on being applied to by the Mussulmans, telegraphed that they must arm and defend themselves, and sent Raschid Pasha to command them. At first, every man only had such arms as he happened to possess, but subsequently the Government distributed arms among the volunteers. The inhabitants of the Mussulman villages received orders to defend themselves in case of need, and some 2,000 irregulars were brought from Hasskeui.

The fact is that the country was for a moment in a complete state of anarchy, and everybody gave orders to everybody else respecting the arming of this village or the attacking of that one. The responsibility of calling out the Bashi-Bazouks must, however, I think, rest with the Vali of Adrianople, who in reply to the question asked from Philippopolis, replied by ordering a general arming of the Mussulmans. His orders were, however, no doubt anticipated by some of the Mussulman Beys, particularly by those of Tatar-Bazardjik, who are notorious for their fanaticism.

At this time Aziz Pasha, who had not been favourable to the general arming, was recalled from Philippopolis, and was replaced by Hamid Pasha, to whose firmness and impartiality the Christians of that town undoubtedly owe their safety. By protecting them, however, he incurred the serious displeasure of the fanatical section of the Mussulmans, who have more than once petitioned for his recall.

At last the Government at Constantinople having become alive to the fact that there was an insurrection in Bulgaria, despatched some troops from the capital, while others under Hassan Pasha came down from Nisch. On the 7th May the latter entered Vetren, burnt 130 houses out of 400, and arrested a certain number of men. He then went through Bazardjik to Bratzigovo, the inhabitants of which had been fighting against the Bashi-Bazouks for about a week, during which time 50 houses were burnt, and called upon them to surrender. The villagers accordingly laid down their arms, and Hassan Pasha made 50 prisoners. The Bashi-Bazouks, as usual, wanted to burn and pillage the village, but this the Pasha refused to allow, threatening to fire upon them if they attempted anything of the sort. Unfortunately, after Hassan Pasha left, a certain Mehmet Ali Bey, a fanatical notable of Bazardjik, returned to Bratzigovo with a number of Bashi-Bazouks and plundered it, cartloads of stolen property being taken away.

Other troops under Hafiz Pasha marched upon Otlou-Keui and Avrat-Alan, and, arriving at the former village on the 12th of May, without the smallest difficulty reduced the insurgents to obedience.

Raschid Pasha went from Philippopolis to Peroustitza, and, after encountering some resistance, entered the village and burnt it to the ground on the 13th of May.

No sooner did the regular troops appear on the scene than the insurrection was at an end, and much bloodshed and useless destruction of property would have been spared had they only been despatched somewhat earlier.

In this imperfect sketch of the outbreak I have not entered upon the subject of atrocities committed, or said to have been committed, as it will be necessary hereafter to give a more detailed account of what took place in each of the principal villages.

I have stated above that the insurrection was suppressed; it is now necessary to examine the manner in which this was done.

The most appalling stories were spread abroad respecting the atrocities committed on the Bulgarians, and, finding their way into the English papers, naturally created a feeling of intense indignation against the perpetrators.

It was said that cartloads of heads had been paraded about the streets of different towns.

That women and children had been publicly sold in the streets of Philippopolis and Tatar Bazardjik.

That horrible tortures had been practised upon the prisoners.

That forty young girls had been ravished and then burnt alive in a barn.

That at least 25,000 perfectly innocent persons had been massacred.

That a large number of villages, differently stated as being between 60 and 100, had been burnt.

It is utterly untrue that cartloads of heads were ever paraded in the streets of any town; but I think I can trace the origin of the story, which was telegraphed to England from Servia. During the insurrection about 150 insurgents crossed over from Roumania in the "Radetzky," and were encountered and defeated by Bashi-Bazouks to the north of Sofia. Some of the dead were decapitated by the conquerors, who brought the heads into Sofia on bayonets and poles, and took them to the konak, where the Pasha told them that he wanted not dead men's heads, but live prisoners, from whom he could obtain evidence.

It is not true that women or chilldren have been publicly sold in the streets under the very eyes of the authorities at Philippopolis or Tatar Bazardjik.

During the terrific confusion that followed the insurrection there is no doubt that many children were lost; some of these have been taken into the houses of charitable persons, and others have now been recovered by their parents. Some may be in the houses of Mussulmans, but I have not heard one single properly authenticated case of sale. In fact respectable Bulgarians themselves at Philippopolis and elsewhere have told me that these stories of sales are only fabrications.

As regards young women, a certain number have no doubt been carried off from different villages by the Bashi-Bazouks, who keep them in their harems; *e.g.* after the awful massacre of Batak about 80 young women and girls were taken to the Mussul-

man villages of Nevrokop, Inipliza, Alanjevo, Kara Boulak, Yeni-Mahalle, Rekitvo, Dorkovo, Bania, Corsova, Babiak, Kozak, and Fotentzi, where they still are.

One man of Batak who knew his wife was in the house of a Turk named Alihko of Bania, applied to the authorities at Tatar Bazardjik, and a zaptieh was sent to look after her, as, however, he came back saying he could not find her, the man was told that if he wanted his wife, he must get her himself.

Of course what took place at Batak may also have taken place elsewhere, though I only heard myself one more case, viz. of a woman of Prasadum Dervent, who said her daughter was in the house of a Turk belonging to a neighbouring village.

The question of the tortures said to have been inflicted on the prisoners is one most difficult to decide, the evidence on the subject being so very conflicting. The Bulgarians in Philippopolis absolutely assert that the greater portion of the evidence given at the trials was extracted by torture; the Turks as absolutely deny that anything of the sort has taken place.

During my journey I saw two men who declared to me that they had been tortured.

One of these, a native of Philippopolis, was arrested and imprisoned for seventy-eight days, nineteen of which he passed in what is known as the "Polizza," a dark damp little dungeon, in which there is only just room for a man to lie down. He said he was taken out at night and asked by two zaptiehs about one Tzocow and other notables of the town, and also whether he had taken arms to Peroustitza; on his declaring that he had no information to give, an iron ring was fastened round his neck which was attached to a chain passed through another ring in the ceiling, and he was then gradually drawn up till his toes only just touched the ground, and kept in that position till he fainted. He was never examined before the Court, and at the end of seventy-eight days was released.

This is the man's story as I heard it from his own lips, but of course I have no means of proving its correctness or incorrectness; only it appears somewhat strange to me that this man should have been tortured by two common zaptiehs without any superior official being present to take down what might be extorted from him.

The other man I saw was a priest who said that, having been arrested, he was sent to Bazardjik, and on the way was brutally beaten by the zaptiehs and Bashi-Bazouks who escorted him, till, to save himself, he signed a paper implicating certain persons. He was then sent to Philippopolis, where he was confined for thirty-five days, during part of which time he was chained to the bars of a window and iron hooks placed in his mouth.

The medical man attached to the prison at Philippopolis, Dr. Vlados, a Greek gentleman, with whom I conversed on the subject, declared that he utterly disbelieved these stories of torture. At any rate, though the prisoners had not been behindhand in complaining of other things, not one of them had said he had been tortured; he had free access to the prisons, and if torture had been used it is more than probable that some one would have made a complaint to him. A priest had complained of having been beaten on the road and showed his bruises. Confinement in the "Polizza," he said, though no doubt extremely disagreeable, could not be regarded as actual torture.*

Though I am unable positively to decide whether prisoners were or were not tortured for the purpose of extracting evidence, there is no doubt that, while they were being conveyed to Philippopolis from the places where they were captured, they were in many cases most brutally ill-treated. This was especially the case with 400 men, who were marched heavily chained from Bazardjik to Philippopolis, and who, on their entry into the latter place, were mercilessly beaten by their escort, and pelted and insulted by the Mussulman mob.

Again, eighty prisoners were sent from Philippopolis to Sofia; five of them died on the road.

Immediately after the suppression of the insurrection, when the feeling against the Bulgarians was strongest, the zaptiehs even beat the prisoners while escorting them from the prison to the place of trial.

When the great mass of prisoners came in from the surrounding country, there is no doubt that the overcrowding in the prisons at Philippopolis was terrific; 265 men were confined for four days in a bath, in which there was not the smallest attempt at drainage, the stench becoming so fearful that the guards could not even sit in the

* Since writing the above I have seen another priest, who declares he was confined for seven days in a privy, during three of which he had neither food nor water, and for twenty-one days in the "polizza," from whence he was only released the day I visited the prison.

ante-room, but had to stay in the street. One prisoner died here of typhus fever, and, it being represented to the authorities that a pestilence might break out in the town, they had the prisoners removed to a khan.

I have no doubt that at the commencement the treatment of the prisoners was harsh in the extreme; a gaoler would give a blow where a word would have sufficed; and, moreover, petty annoyances were practised on Bulgarians which showed a mean and contemptible spirit of revenge; *e.g.*, a Turkish official, Nami Effendi, 1st Secretary to the Government, going one day to the khans which served as prisons, found the doors of the rooms open an account of the heat. He ordered them to be shut, and his orders were obeyed. On another occasion the "Tahkkik Midjlissi" tried to serve out mouldy bread unfit for food to the prisoners, but the plan was thwarted by Dr. Vlados. It is possible, however, that peculation rather than the infliction of pain was the object of this unfeeling action.

The prisoners receive daily 300 drams of bread (not quite 34 oz.) but no other provisions; it must, however, be remembered that the Turkish troops on their way to the seat of war receive no rations but bread between Constantinople and Nisch.

When I visited the prisons on the 21st of July they were not overcrowded, but then a large number of prisoners had been released; they also appeared to me to be tolerably clean.

I now come to the story of the burning of the forty girls, who are supposed to have been refugees from Seloi Yenikeui, a village in the vilayet of Towna, the deed having been said to have been committed in a barn near Kalofer, a place situated on the southern side of the Balkans, some six hours from Yenikeui.

The only person who could tell me anything about this story declared that the barn was within half-an-hour's distance of Kalofer, but on inquiring at that place I found that no one had ever heard tell of it. Later on I was able to go to Yenikeui itself, and there the villagers positively denied that anything of the sort had taken place.

On my return to Philippopolis from Tatar Bazardjik I heard that a Turk had been found who, in a café, had boasted of having been present when this deed was committed.

I made an unsuccessful attempt to find this man, but on inquiry I discovered that the story of his existence rested on the assertion of a man named Eski Petro, of Sopot, whom I know, by personal experience, to be remarkable for his mendacity.

The question of the number of persons who perished in the late outbreak is the one that perhaps presents the greatest difficulty to anyone wishing to draw up a fair and impartial report of what took place. During my journey I have heard the number of killed differently estimated at anything between 200,000 and 1,830, the latter being the Turkish official estimate, and the former the calculation of a Bulgarian gentleman whom I happened to meet.

The greatest loss of life undoubtedly took place at Batak, and there are certainly not more than 1,500 people belonging to that village left alive. Discover the number of inhabitants previous to the insurrection, and you can immediately ascertain the number of killed. But here arises the difficulty; the population is reckoned at anything between the 1,441 "âmes" of Edib Effendi's Report and 9,000. The former calculation is evidently far below the mark, as the official returns give the number of houses as 494, so that Edib Effendi's figures would give not quite three inhabitants to a house, which calculation is obviously erroneous.

From Edib Effendi's Report one would gather that there were 1,441 souls in Batak, whereas those are the very figures given me by the Mutessarif of Philippopolis as the official return of males "noufouz" paying the "bedeli askerieh."

On the other hand, those who accept the highest estimate of 9,000 place the number of houses at 900, which I think is above the mark.

I am informed on good authority that too great reliance cannot be placed on the official "noufouz," as the population is invariably understated in it, the inhabitants sending in false returns in order to escape taxation.

Persons who know Bulgarian villages well tell me that one may fairly calculate ten inhabitants to a house, as married sons usually live in their fathers' houses. Adopt this calculation for Batak, put the number of houses at 650, the figures given me by a person who knows the place well, and the result will be 6,500 inhabitants. Of these 1,500 remain, 5,000 must therefore have perished in the massacre!

This calculation of ten people to a house may not be correct in all villages. At Peroustitza the average is not quite six, but at Batak the houses are said to have been

crowded, and I therefore have less hesitation in applying these figures to that village than to any other.

I have given my calculation, and have stated the means by which I have arrived at it. Some may object that it is mere guesswork. In a country where reliable statistics are unprocurable, one can but guess at the amount of the population. All an enquirer can do is to get the best information he can from the most impartial sources and draw his own conclusions.

Should the Turkish authorities be able to prove my estimate to be incorrect, I will willingly acknowledge my error.

Again, take Peroustitza, a village of 350 houses, and of about 2,000 inhabitants, the Turkish official returns place the number of killed at 300,* while the Bulgarians say 1,000 people perished. The truth, of course, lies between these two estimates; but from all I could discover I should say that the Bulgarians were in this instance nearer the truth than the Turks. During the fighting that took place there 450 people escaped to Yustina, and afterwards about 500 men, women, and children were taken to Philippopolis. It is difficult to imagine that the whole of the remaining population could have been killed; so that I think the loss of life should not be stated at above 750.

The only place in this province I visited where the inhabitants had made out anything like a detailed list of killed was at Otlou-keui, where a regular statement, made by the Bulgarians themselves, was shown to me of the losses of the different quarters, the result being as follows:—

Men	262
Women	284
Children	217
	763

At the time of the outbreak of the insurrection a large number of people from the surrounding villages flocked to Otlou-keui, and when Hafiz Pasha arrived, according to the Bulgarian estimate, there were 12,000 strangers present. A considerable number of these were no doubt killed,—my informants said 1,000 or 1,200, but they did not pretend to be able to answer for the accuracy of their estimate.

In the Caza of Philippopolis, eighteen villages were partially or totally destroyed, but I have only been able to obtain reliable statistics of persons killed from eight of these, viz.:—

Dervent	250
Zindjivli	70
Peroustitza	750
Strebitchko	40
Boriovo	13
Dedovo	2
Pastoutcha	17
Leshnik	20
	1,162

Four of these villages, viz., the first three and the last, I have visited myself; the statistics of the others I procured from a reliable Bulgarian source at Philippopolis.

In the Caza of Tatar Bazardjik 33 Christian villages were destroyed, but I can only offer statistics of the loss of life in 8 of them, viz.:—

Batak	(about)	5,000
Radilovo		25
Sert Harmanly		30
Caramousal		50
Lesitchovo		3
Otlou-keui		763
Yeni-keui		60
The inhabitants say that 60 actually known to have been killed; others missing: cannot say how many.		
Bratzigovo		52
45 killed when village was taken by Hassan Pasha, and 7 men who had been released from prison at Peshteva murdered on the road.		
	(about)	5,983

To these must be added 130 persons killed at Avrat-Alan, and 6 men belonging to Peshtera, one of whom was murdered near his own village, and 5 who perished at Batak, to which place they had gone on business,—thus raising the total to 6,119.

* The official report says most of these committed suicide; the fact being that one man did.

I have visited all the above-mentioned villages except Sert-Harmanly and Bratzigovo, but I have my information respecting these latter from a good source. As regards Bratzigovo the figures given me by a Bulgarian native tally exactly with those I received from Hafiz Nouri Effendi, a highly respectable Turk of Philippopolis.

It will be seen from what I have stated above that I put the loss of life at 7,145, but unfortunately it cannot be inferred from this that the total number of Bulgarians killed in the sandjak of Philippopolis is represented by these figures.

Where the Bashi-Bazouks went at the early part of the insurrection, they killed any villagers they laid hands on, and though the majority of the inhabitants of many villages, either at the instigation of the revolutionists or from fear of the Bashi-Bazouks, left their homes and took to the mountains, some, being either unable or unwilling to fly, remained behind and were ruthlessly butchered.

Taking all these circumstances into consideration, I think I cannot be accused of exaggeration, nor of wishing to paint things blacker than they really are, if I maintain the estimate I previously made, viz., that about 12,000 persons perished in the sandjak of Philippopolis.

My figures are open to correction. I have said, and I repeat, that the difficulty of obtaining a really reliable estimate is immense. Persons who talk about 25,000 and 30,000 lives lost draw their information almost entirely from their own fertile brains. On the other hand anybody who has had the misfortune to visit Batak, cannot read without indignation the report of the Turkish Commissioners published in the "Turquie" of 21st August, and which puts at 1,836 the number of Bulgarians killed in "fighting the Imperial troops and volunteers."

It is not much easier to discover the number of Mussulmans killed than it is to give a correct estimate of Christian lives lost, but the list I append I have received on good authority, and I think may be relied on :—

Name of Place.	Men.	Women and Children.	Total.
Tchanakdje	4	..	4
Otlou-keui..	12	2	14
Bratzigovo..	..	2	2
Avrat-Alan	71	1	72
Zindjivli and Yeni-keui	26	4	30
Guelvene	6	3	9
Radilovo	2	..	2
Dervent	14	..	14
Peroustitza	3	..	3
Lesitchovo..	5	..	5
Batak	3	..	3
	146	12	158
Yourouk Mahallesi	5	..	..
	151	12	163

Giving a total of 163.

Some Mussulmans were also, I believe, killed at Stuldja, but I could not ascertain the number. At Okdjelar (Yourouk Mahalleri) which was burnt by the insurgents, a Mussulman is said to have been roasted. At Carlovo I heard a fearful story of a Turkish boy whose arms were flayed by the insurgents, who said they would make a "tchesskeri," or jacket, for him out of his own skin, but I cannot guarantee the truth of this tale.

The place where the Bulgarians shewed the greatest ferocity was at Avrat-Alan, for here they massacred 72 Mussulmans in cold blood, viz., the Mudir and his secretary, 3 zaptiehs, 64 gipsies, and one Turkish girl. It was said that the Mudir's wife had also been murdered, but it has now been plainly proved that she was not in the place at the time of the outbreak.

Altogether the number of Mussulmans killed in cold blood probably does not exceed 200 for the whole Sandjak of Philippopolis.

I have not heard an estimate given of the number of irregulars killed in fighting, but I should think from all I gather, that they might be counted by tens rather than by hundreds.

A certain number of zaptiehs, who were naturally scattered about the country, were killed; but I cannot discover that a single man of the regular army fell while fighting against the insurgents in this Sandjak.

The following is the list of the Bulgarian villages totally or partially burnt in the districts of Philippopolis and Tatar Bazardjik :—

District of Philippopolis.

Name of Village.	Houses.	
Tcheumlik Yeni-keui (Novo Selo in Bulgarian) ..	300	Totally burnt by Turks of Ayvanli.
Zindjivli	177	Totally burnt; partly by inhabitants, partly by Turks.
Krastovo	100	Partially burnt.
Ouzoun Gheren	70	Totally burnt.
Ereli	200	Partially burnt.
Sare Gueul	45	Totally burnt.
Stretilchko	90	Ditto.
Leshnik	120	Ditto.
Saradja	?	Partially burnt.
Boicovo	59	All burnt but 4.
Dedovo	50	20 houses and 20 barns burnt.
Savastovo	40	Partially burnt.
Peroustitza	350	Totally burnt.
Prasadum Dervent (Klissoura)	800	Ditto.
Asakur	140	Ditto.
Kozarsko	110	Ditto.
Pastoutcha	20	Totally burnt; not clear whether by Turks or by people of Peroustitza.
Ayvandjik	50	Totally burnt.

In all, 18.

District of Tatar Bazardjik.

Name of Village.	Houses.	
Dink-keui	?	Totally burnt.
Tzerovo	180	80 houses burnt by Bulgarians; church by Circassians.
Caramousal	120	Totally burnt.
Lesitchovo	172	64 houses burnt.
Kalaglar	?	Partially burnt by people of Otlou-keui.
Guelvere	?	Totally burnt. This village called Kaloyero in Bulgarian.
Slavovitza	?	Partially burnt.
Doganovo	?	Totally burnt.
Djumaa	?	Ditto.
Sert Harmanly	120	60 houses burnt.
Dere Harman	27	All burnt, probably by Bulgarians, but not certain.
Shallar	61	Totally burnt.
Bega	?	Ditto.
Koulêh	?	Ditto.
Sterkovo	?	Ditto.
Bania	?	6 houses burnt by troops.
Medjka	100	30 houses left; 70 burnt.
Tetrich	?	Totally burnt.
Otlou-keui (Panagourishte)	2,000	Between 400 and 500 burnt.
Golak	?	Totally burnt.
Tekir	?	Ditto.
Kassapli	?	Ditto.
Eshekli	?	Ditto.
Eski Kasli	?	Ditto.
Keupeli	?	Ditto.
Elli-dere	?	Ditto.
Radilovo	177	Ditto.
Batak	650	Ditto.
Ali Hodja	?	Ditto.
Bratsigovo	500	50 burnt.
Vetren	400	130 burnt.
Tobrend	?	Totally burnt.
Bellova	?	Partially burnt, including railway station, latter by insurgents.

In all, 33.

Besides these the insurgents burnt five small Turkish villages, viz., Okdjelar, Djafferli, Dohanhi, and Ouratchli, known collectively as the Yourouk Mahallin, and Palanka, as well as Streldja, a mixed village of Mussulmans and Bulgarians.

The total number of villages burnt, therefore, in the Sandjak of Philippopolis, both Mussulman and Christian, amounts to fifty-eight.

Four monasteries have also been burnt and pillaged :—

Kritchma ..	.. The Virgin ..	.. Abbot killed; 1 monk missing.
Ditto ..	.. St. Kosma and Damian	.. Abbot and 3 monks missing.
Peroustitza ..	.. St. Theodore ..	.. No information.
Kaloyero ..	.. St. Nicholas ..	.. 1 monk killed; 1 missing.

It is now necessary to give a short account of the circumstances which attended the destruction of some of the largest of these villages.

Prasadum Dervent, called in Bulgaria Klissoura.—This village situated at the foot of the Balkans, in the district of Philippopolis, was completely destroyed by Bashi-Bazouks under Tossoun Bey, a Turkish notable of Karlovo, on the 7th of May; but as I have already given some description of what took place there in a previous report, it will only be necessary to say a very words about it now. I find the number of Turks killed there amounts to thirteen and not to three, as I had previously stated. There cannot be the smallest doubt that the inhabitants of this village did revolt, otherwise why did they erect fortifications, which, though they are far from formidable, are conclusive evidence that resistance against an enemy was intended. The inhabitants themselves do not deny offering some slight resistance to Tossoun Bey's men, though, as I have said before, I totally disclaim the story of the Bashi-Bazouks having summoned the villagers to surrender. The burning and pillaging, however, were acts of wanton destruction and cruelty, as not only were 250 people killed, but the whole population is now condemned to misery and starvation during the approaching winter. The people are now huddled together in tents sent from Avrat Alan, but as far as I could judge only one house was being rebuilt.

When the Bashi-Bazouks entered a woman had just been confined; they went into the house where she lay helpless and murdered both her and the newly-born infant.

Dervent produced yearly 7,000 Turkish pounds worth of attar-of-roses; the revenue on this sum is now, of course, lost to Government.

I believe Tossoun Bey has received a decoration, but it is not true, as is stated in some quarters, that he has been made Mudir of Karlovo. This latter official I saw myself, and he is by no means ill-spoken of by the inhabitants; in fact, to him and to the "Mutevelli" of the Mosque the people of Karlowo owe their safety.

The village of Sopot saved itself from sharing the fate of Dervent by making Tossoun a present of 300 Turkish pounds.

At Kalofer, a large village to the east of Karlovo, 130 cattle and sheep had been taken by the Turkish villagers; during my first visit there the inhabitants complained that they dared not stir from the village, and also of the conduct of the Mudir towards them. On my return to Philippopolis I laid these and other complaints before the Mutessarif, and on passing through Kalofer for the second time, I was glad to find that the Mudir had been changed for a man who was better spoken of by the inhabitants then was his predecessor, and that there were 100 soldiers in the village.

Tcheunlek Yenikeui—called in Bulgaria Staro Novo Selo—a village of 300 houses, in the district of Philippopolis, was visited on the 22nd of April by one Basily, of Philippopolis, and others, who told the inhabitants the story repeated everywhere to these unfortunate peasants, viz., that the Turks were going to massacre them, and that their deliverers, the Russians, were just on the other side of the Balkans. The villagers accordingly killed some Turks of Ayvanli, who happened to be in the village, and fled to the mountains. About a week afterwards the Bashi-Bazouks came, burnt the village and carried off everything they could lay hands on. The inhabitants thinking themselves safe after this returned to their burnt houses; they were, however, again set upon by the Turks, who killed sixty of them.* Before the insurrection they had 500 yoke of oxen and 10,000 sheep, all the latter have been taken, and they have only 100 yoke of oxen left. The worst thing in the present condition of these villagers is that their neighbours of Ayvanli, whose violent enmity they have of course incurred, now leave them no peace. They engaged as kouroudji ("garde champêtre") a man named Shakir, of Ayvanli, to guard them, which he does by inflicting every species of forced labour on them, and a few days before my arrival he made some of them cart 300 loads of stone for him. Further, having found out that a woman had some money left, he went to her tent and forced her to give it to him. On my bringing this atrocious conduct before the Mutessarif he sent some zaptiehs to correct the man, but just before leaving Philippopolis I heard that

* Sixty killed in the village, others missing, but inhabitants cannot say how many.

though they had been to the village they had not carried out his Excellency's instructions.

Peroustitza.—District of Philippopolis, 350 houses. Perhaps more has been written and said about the destruction of this village than about that of all the other Bulgarian villages put together, and the evidence respecting what led to the destruction, how far the inhabitants really revolted, and the manner in which they addressed their demands to Philippopolis for aid, is most extremely conflicting.

Under the circumstances the best thing I can do is to transcribe the evidence of an Armenian woman and her daughter, which was given before me at Philippopolis.

Before Easter some of the people of Peroustitza began to dig holes to bury their valuables. When this became known and questions were asked in the village it was mooted about that some day the "Committee" would come, burn the place, and force the people to rise. One Vasily, a doctor, or perhaps rather a chemist (who was hung while I was at Philippopolis), was the person who chiefly made it his business to tell the people they must be prepared to revolt, or it would go hard with them. Two of the priests refused to act with Vasily, and even read a paper in the church exhorting the people to be quiet. One of these priests was killed and the other imprisoned.

Some neighbours advised the Armenians, as strangers, to leave the village, but the Tchorbadji Wrangel, one of the influential men of the place, objected, and said they must stay. Soon after this some villages were seen burning in the neighbourhood, and some said the "Committee" were coming, while others said the Turks were upon them, and they must defend themselves. The consequence of this alarm was a general arming.

Wrangel then goes to Philippopolis, and asks Aziz Pasha, then Mutessarif, for assistance, which the Pasha promises to send, adding that Tumbrushli Achmet Agha, "Kir Meemouri" of the district, who had been ordered to Bazardjik, had better return to Peroustitza. Accordingly Achmet Agha sends more of his men to Peroustitza, to say he will send 400 men to protect the village. This the inhabitants decline, and detain the Turks all that day, Sunday, 7th May, and towards evening take them out and kill them.

The next day the Bashi-Bazouks advanced towards the village, and Wrangel, going again to Philippopolis, returned with two zaptiehs, who, however, seeing the Bulgarians armed, left immediately. Wrangel then left again the same evening for Philippopolis, taking with him his daughter, whom he placed in the house of the Russian Vice-Consul. He was then arrested.

Wrangel's disappearance created excitement and alarm, and a good many people, including the Armenian woman, fled to Yustina, where they were protected. The daughter remained behind, and the place being attacked by Bashi-Bazouks, she and a number of others took refuge in the church, in the upper part of the village. Here they stayed from Tuesday till late on Thursday, when they fled to another church lower down. Here they remained till Saturday; fourteen cannon shots being fired by the troops, many of which, going in at the windows, killed a considerable number of people.

On Saturday morning the troops surrounded the church, and the girl wished to surrender, and, though the Bulgarians threatened her with guns, she managed to slip out and give herself up to a zaptieh. She then returned to the door, and advised others to do as she had done, and a few who followed her advice were unharmed; those, however, who remained, were, she supposes, all killed. She saw one man in the church kill his wife and two children, and then blow his own brains out. She declares that from the upper church the people could see the regular troops attacking them.

The villagers' story, as told me by them on the spot, is that the Turks of Yustina had been threatening them for some time past, that they sent to Aziz Pasha for troops, and were told by him that they must defend themselves, sending a note, which was said to be in the hands of a "tchorbadji" in prison at Philippopolis, enjoining on them the necessity of killing any rogue ("tchapken") who should come to annoy them; and on the strength of this paper they say they killed Achmet Agha's men. They say they surrendered as soon as they knew they had to do with the regular troops.

Now it is clearly established that the people shut themselves up in the upper church on Tuesday, May 9th, and remained there till Thursday, 11th May, late in the afternoon, on which day also the troops under Reschid Pasha arrived, but it was not till Saturday, the 13th, that all resistance was at an end. According to the

Armenian girl's evidence the troops were seen from the upper church, and they certainly made their presence known during Friday by firing cannon into the lower one.

I do not see, therefore, how the villagers' story of their not being aware of the presence of regulars can be maintained, though on the other hand it does not appear that Reschid Pasha ever sent them any summons to surrender.

The reasons given by the Turks for the arrest of Wrangel are as follows:—

When in Philippopolis he gave some information respecting a village which he said had been burnt: but his story being contradicted, men were sent after him to make him come to the konak to explain himself, and they, while looking for him, met two individuals carrying a quantity of powder, who, on being stopped and questioned, said they were taking it to Peroustitza by Wrangel's orders. He was therefore arrested.

I should add that a Commission composed of two Turks and a Bulgarian was sent to Yustina and Peroustitza, where matters were beginning to look serious, to try and allay the ill-feeling existing on both sides, and two men from Peroustitza were given as hostages to the people of Yustina, but unfortunately no really good result followed this mission.

From all the conflicting evidence I think one may fairly deduce that the spirit of revolt existed at Peroustitza; but on the other hand the punishment inflicted was severer than the crime merited. The burning of the village was neither necessary nor politic, and, of course, the wholesale plunder here or elsewhere cannot be excused for a moment.

Surely also Reschid Pasha might have advanced his troops right up to the town church on Friday instead of on Saturday, whereas he bombarded it for the whole of one day, although he must have known that it was full of women and children. There were certainly armed men in it who were resisting the Bashi-Bazouks with a certain amount of vigour, but the resistance that would have been offered to his regulars would probably not have been severe.

In the school which was burnt during the fighting two girls are said to have perished in the flames.

There is no doubt that when the prisoners were being taken to Philippopolis numbers of the women were violated on the road.

Peroustitza was a most flourishing village producing annually 2,000,000 okes of wine and a large quantity of silk and grain; of course the place is now completely ruined, and the surviving inhabitants are in the greatest misery.

I have given elsewhere my estimate of the number of killed, among whom there are many women and children.

Batak.—I have now to give an account of the most fearful tragedy that happened during the whole insurrection, and about which, till a very short time ago, little or nothing had been said.

The Medjliss of Tatar Bazardjik hearing that preparations for revolt were going on in this village ordered Achmet Agha of Dospat to attack it, and this individual having joined his forces with those of Mohammed Agha of Dorkovo, proceeded to carry out these orders. On arriving at the village he summoned the inhabitants to give up their arms which, as they mistrusted him, they refused to do, and a desultory fight succeeded which lasted two days, hardly any loss being inflicted on either side. On the 9th of May the inhabitants seeing that things were going badly with them, and that no aid came from without, had a parley with Achmet, who solemnly swore that if they only gave up their arms, not a hair of their heads should be touched. A certain number of the inhabitants, luckily for them, took advantage of this parley to make their escapes. The villagers believed Achmet's oath and surrendered their arms, but this demand was followed by one for all the money in the village, which of course had also to be acceded to.

No sooner was the money given up than the Bashi-Bazouks set upon the people and slaughtered them like sheep. A large number of people, probably about 1,000 or 1,200, took refuge in the church and churchyard, the latter being surrounded by a wall. The church itself is a solid building, and resisted all the attempts of the Bashi-Bazouks to burn it from the outside, they consequently fired in through the windows, and getting upon the roof, tore off the tiles and threw burning pieces of wood and rags dipped in petroleum among the mass of unhappy human beings inside. At last the door was forced in, the massacre completed, and the inside of the church burnt. Hardly any escaped out of these fatal walls. The only survivor I could find was one old woman who alone remained out of a family of seven. When the door

was broken in and she was expecting immediate death, a Turk took her by the hand, and saying "Come, old woman, I am not going to hurt you," led her away and saved her life.

The spectacle which the church and churchyard present must be seen to be described; hardly a corpse has been buried; where a man fell there he now lies, and it is with difficulty that one picks one's way to the door of the church, the entrance of which is barred by a ghastly corpse stretched across the threshhold.

I visited this valley of the shadow of death on the 31st of July, more than two months and a half after the massacre, but still the stench was so overpowering that one could hardly force one's way into the churchyard. In the streets at every step lay human remains, rotting and sweltering in the summer sun—here a skull of an old woman, with the gray hair still attached to it—there the false tress of some unhappy girl, slashed in half by a yataghan, the head which it had adorned having been probably carried off to be devoured by some of the dogs, who up to this have been the only scavengers.

Just outside the village I counted more than sixty skulls in a little hollow, and it was evident from their appearance that nearly all of them had been severed from the bodies by axes and yataghans. From the remains of female wearing apparel scattered about, it is plain that many of the persons here massacred were women.

It is to be feared also that some of the richer villagers were subjected to cruel tortures before being put to death, in hopes that they would reveal the existence of hidden treasure. Thus Petro Triandaphyllos and Pope Necio were roasted, and Stoyan Stoychoff had his ears, nose, hands and feet cut off.

Enough, I think, has been said to show that to Achmet Agha and his men belongs the distinction of having committed perhaps the most heinous crime that has stained the history of the present century, Nana Sahib alone, I should say, having rivalled their deeds.

As regards the numbers of killed, I have before stated that about 5,000 is my estimate. I am aware that others place it higher, but be this as it may, whether the slain are to be counted by hundreds or by thousands does not lessen in the least degree the criminality of the slayers. The intention was to exterminate all except those few girls (probably about 80) whom they carried off to satisfy their lusts. Those that escaped owed their safety to their own good fortune, and not to the tender mercies of their neighbours.

For this exploit Achmet Agha has received the Order of the Medjidié.

I am, however, willing to a certain extent to believe that the Turkish authorities were not aware, before I visited Batak, of the horrors that had been committed there. The place lies in the mountains, eight hours' from Bazardjik, is somewhat difficult of access, and till I went there no one had gone who was likely to give the authorities a faithful account of what he saw. Had they really known that the place was a mass of putrefying corpses, would they not have taken some measures to clear them away before I reached the scene?

A Turk who accompanied me from Bazardjik, and who on the way had been loud in his denunciation of the rebels, changed his tone completely when he really saw what his countrymen had done, and was not less horror-stricken than I was.

Edib Effendi's report as regards Batak is not worth criticism. I am informed that he never went there. I should only like to ask him two questions—

1. Was the whole village, which is principally built of stone, burnt down by a few "bâtisses en bois" being set fire to near the church?

2. Were the women who were decapitated outside the village, and whose bones the dogs were quarrelling over when I saw them, killed in the "combat terrible" which is supposed to have taken place?

Batak was a flourishing village, and carried on an active trade in planks. The sawmills have all been burnt, and 30,000 okes of iron carried off or destroyed. The loss in cattle is also great—1,000 yoke of oxen, 2,000 cows, 5,000 sheep and goats, and 800 horses having been stolen.

The surviving inhabitants live in wooden huts constructed outside the village,* and are in great misery; they are stunned by this disaster, and do not even try to bury their dead. Some of the women I saw sitting on the ruins of their houses singing the most melancholy sort of dirge; others wandered about the churchyard among the corpses, while a few who seemed more than half bereft of reason rushed about tearing their hair, beating their brows, and uttering piercing shrieks.

* About 250 people were living in the village when I went. About 1,000 were said to be at Peshtera and elsewhere. A considerable number, principally women, took advantage of my visit to return to their village.

The facts of this tragedy are now in the possession of the Turkish Government, and it is their bounden duty, by making a striking example of Achmet Agha and Mohammed Agha, to prove to the world that it thoroughly disapproves of their infamous conduct.

On my way to Batak I passed through the burnt village of Radilovo, consisting of 177 houses. Here 25 men and women had been killed, and 150 yoke of oxen, 20 horses, and 3,000 sheep carried off. Through the intervention of the authorities, the villagers had recovered 30 yoke of oxen and 350 sheep. Some of their cattle they knew to be at Tchanahdji, but on going to claim it the Turks drove them off with pistol shots.

I also visited Peshtera, a mixed village. Here the Bulgarians said they had lost 200 head of cattle, and that there had been cases of plunder, but no ill-treatment. One man had been killed in the fields.

On the road between Tatar Bazardjik and Otlou-keui, I passed a number of villages totally or partially burnt, viz., the Bulgarian villages of Vetren, Dene-Harman, Tzerovo, Caramousal, Lesitchovo, and Bania; and the Mussulman villages of Palanka, Ouroutchli, and Djafferli.

Vetren was partially burnt by the troops of Hassan Pasha, the inhabitants having cut the telegraph wires, fired upon the post, and aided in burning the little Mussulman village and guard-house of Palanka. 130 houses, including the church, are burnt out of 400; the school is not burnt.

At *Dene-Harman* the villagers, having all taken to the mountains, were unable positively to say who burnt their village.

Tzerovo.—80 houses burnt out of 180. Part of these were burnt by the insurgents, but the Circassians who came afterwards burnt the church and carried off a quantity of cattle. Some of the oxen have been recovered at Sofia, but no sheep.

A Tchorbadje of this village wanted to massacre some gipsies, who were, however, saved by the intervention of one Nicola Kodouk, a Bulgarian. This man has been rewarded by being imprisoned at Philippopolis.

Caramousal.—120 houses was totally burnt by the Turks of Elenene, and 600 yoke of oxen carried off. 50 people were killed here and there on the hills.

Lesitchovo was evacuated by the inhabitants at the instigation of some rebels, and was then partially burnt, probably by the Turkish villagers.

Bania.—Hafiz Pasha burnt six houses here belonging to persons implicated in the revolution. Several women were violated. A boy watching cattle in the neighbourhood was shot through the leg by the troops or Bashi-Bazouks, who happened to pass by, a wanton act of cruelty.

Ouroutchli and *Djafferli*, purely Turkish villages, situated near one another, were burnt by the insurgents. In the former I saw the ruins of the mosque, but I cannot say whether there was one in the latter or not.

Otloukeui, in Bulgarian Panagurishti.—A large and wealthy village of 2,000 houses; may be looked upon as the centre of the insurrection. It was here that Benkowsky held meetings of insurgents, at which their plan of action was drawn up. Altogether, the inhabitants tell me, he stayed in the town nearly four months, telling everyone that the Turks were going to massacre the Christians, and promising Russian aid. When the rising really did take place, the people killed the "Multezim," a zaptieh, and some other Turks, and imprisoned the Mudir's Vekil and others, who, however, were not harmed. The newly-appointed Mudir was to occupy his post at the time, and was murdered outside the village.

Two Turkish women were also killed outside, though apparently one of them only met her fate after she had slashed an insurgent across the head with a knife.

While at Otloukeui I conversed with many of the villagers, and none of them denied that the Mudir was murdered outside; but some persons who wish to be more Bulgarian than the Bulgarians, and whose only object it is to make the Turks appear as odious as possible in the eyes of the world, so as to lead to the speedy dismemberment of their Empire, do not hesitate by a most unworthy piece of special pleading to acquit the people of Otloukeui of this murder.

They say the village had no Mudir, so how could he be killed in the village?

It is true he was killed not inside but outside, which, as far as he was concerned, makes no material difference.

The insurgents erected fortifications which are erected with greater care than any others I saw in the country, and prepared for resistance. When, however, Hafiz Pasha

and Adil Pasha arrived with troops and irregulars, the resistance they met with was very slight, and they entered the town and made it pay dearly for its attempts at revolution.

Both the churches, two schools, the whole of the market-place, and the best houses, in all between 400 and 500, were burnt, and the whole town pillaged from one end to the other. Nothing of the smallest value was left, and between 30,000 to 40,000 Turkish pounds' worth of property are said to have been carried off. Unfortunately the Turks did not confine themselves to pillage; over 700 people belonging to the village, among whom were many women and children, were killed, and a large number of strangers also perished. The number of these latter was stated to me by the inhabitants to have been about 1,000.

Great numbers of women were also no doubt ravished, but considering the natural unwillingness that, of course, exists among respectable people to give evidence respecting this class of crime, it is not very easy to obtain reliable information on the subject. One woman, however, did come forward, and declared that her daughter, fourteen years of age, had been violated, and then murdered in her presence.

Two little children were brought to me wounded, one in the foot and one in the thigh. A child is said to have been impaled on a standard, and paraded in the streets.

Other fearful horrors are spoken of as having been committed, but I am not in a position to prove or disprove them, and would, therefore, prefer to draw a veil over them.

I have, however, stated sufficient to prove that Hafiz Pasha suppressed the insurrection in this place with a severity not in the least called for. As a centre of what, no doubt, might have turned out eventually to be a serious rising, an example was called for; but a chastisement, sufficient to strike terror into the population, might have been inflicted without ravishing, pillaging, slaughtering women and children, and indulging in cruelties worthy of Red Indians.

The case is not improved by the fact that these deeds were committed not only by Bashi-Bazouks, but also by regulars, the Arab soldiers, in particular, distinguishing themselves by their licentiousness and ferocity.

Much has been said about the case of Raika Popova, school-mistress of Otlou-keui, and surnamed the "Queen of the Bulgarians." One day, at the beginning of the insurrection, this very young woman was taken by her fellow-townspeople, mounted on a horse, and paraded about the streets, while the crowd shouted, "Long live the Queen!" The whole affair appears to have been really nothing but a drunken frolic, yet the girl was imprisoned for some time at Philippopolis, and only released during my stay there.

She is said to have been violated by the Mudir of Otloukeui, in whose house she was at first confined, and also by other Turks; but though her female companions declare such to have been her fate, the girl herself stoutly denies it, and has even expressed her willingness to submit to medical examination. Perhaps natural modesty may cause her to shrink from speaking the truth, but I do not quite see how, in the face of her own positive denial, the Turkish Government can be called upon, as some seem to think they ought to be, to disprove her statement.

Avrat Alan.—A large village some four hours from Otlou-keui, also took an active part in the insurrection. Some zaptiehs who had gone there to effect some arrests were besieged in the Konak, but after twenty-four hours' resistance succeeded in cutting their way through the mob. The Mudir, his secretary, and three zaptiehs were killed, as also were sixty-six gipsies and one Turkish girl.

The village was not attacked by Hafiz Pasha till after he had been to Otlou-keui, and as the inhabitants made immediate submission, and even arrested some suspected persons, not a house was burnt. The place, however, was completely pillaged, and the inhabitants say 130 people, including strangers, were killed. Many of the houses were simply gutted, and in one that I saw the boards had been torn up in places and the divans ripped open in the search for valuables.

It is said that a boy of this village was so brutally outraged that he died.

On the whole, Avrat Alan, the most guilty village of all, suffered less than any of the others, and one is led to ask why the punishment which was considered sufficient here should have been considered insufficient elsewhere.

Sandjak of Slimnia.—The insurrection in this province seems to have been a most extremely insignificant affair, but Mussulman feeling had been a good deal excited by the occurrences at Eski-Zaghra in the autumn, and had it not been for the firmness and impartiality of Haydar Bey, Mutessarif of Slimnia, whose conduct it is impossible to praise too highly, the Christians would have fared badly.

Nothing appears to have happened till after the insurrection had been pretty well quelled in the Province of Philippopolis, when a few idle and worthless fellows from Slimnia betook themselves to the Balkans to join some bands which had been formed in the neighbouring vilayet.

The Bulgarians themselves gave information of this to the Mutessarif, a body of men went in pursuit of these rebels, and coming up with these dispersed them, killing several and brought a few heads into Slimnia.

Here the whole business might, and ought to, have ended, but the arrival of Shefket Pasha entirely altered the aspect of affairs.

The Vali of Adrianople had sent orders to the Mutessarif of Slimnia to call out the Bashi-Bazouks, but the latter, who was fully alive to the danger of such a course, did not at once obey. No sooner did Shefket Pasha arrive, however, than without consulting anybody, he sent orders right and left for the general arming of the Musulmans. Many of these Bashi-Bazouks came to Slimnia, and they, and Shefket Pasha's troops, spread terror among the Christians. Three men were murdered in the streets, and a few others wounded, and had it not been for the admirable conduct of the Mutessarif, far worse things would undoubtedly have happened.

I will now endeavour to give some description of what Edib Effendi calls "la défaite infligée aux insurgés à Boyadjikeui."

About the 24th or 25th of May some Turks of Korfale went to the village and extorted about 20*l.* Turkish from different villagers and ravished one man's wife and daughter. The inhabitants accordingly met together to consider what steps they could take to prevent the recurrence of these outrages. Upon this two or three Mussulmans who happened to be in the village sent to Slimnia and told the Mutessarif that Boyadjikeui was in a state of rebellion. The Mutessarif mistrusted their information, and told them plainly that they only wanted an excuse for plunder. They left him and went to Shefket Pasha, who, in his turn, went to the Mutessarif, and urged him to take measures to suppress this incipient rising.

The Mutessarif therefore telegraphed to Hachen Effendi, Kaimakam of Yamboli, which is two hours from Boyadjikeui, to go and inquire into what was going on.

This functionary went to the village, but the inhabitants having really no confidence in him, said they did not want his protection, and if only a single zaptieh were sent from Slimnia they would do anything they were ordered to do.

Hachen Effendi consequently sent off a messenger to Slimnia to say that the inhabitants of Boyadjikeui *had refused to admit him.*

This message somehow or other got into the hands of Shefket Pasha, who immediately ordered his troops out and marched to the village. On his approach the elders came out to meet and salute him, and to assure him of their loyalty. He entirely refused to listen to them, and drove them away with insulting language, and ordered the attack.

Out of 139 houses all but 20 were burnt; 143 men and 6 women were massacred; 5,500 oxen, cows, horses, &c., and 7,600 sheep were carried off, as well as quantities of other property. This happened on the 30th of May.

The villages of Mouslouk Hodja, Bouzoundjou, and Emirli were plundered, but not burnt, and Besch Tepe was only saved from destruction by the troops of Shefket Pash by the earnest intercession of the Bishop of Slimnia.

At Yamboli also the troops under Shefket Pasha behaved most disgracefully, they plundered many houses and ill-treated the Christians, though I could not discover that anybody had been killed.

I had been told that the daughter of one Hadji Elia had been violated and murdered before his eyes. I made inquiries and discovered that the man had but two daughters before these occurrences, who are both still alive. Whether, however, one of them was outraged or not is more than I can say. There is little doubt that Shefket Pasha intended to treat Yamboli as he had treated Boyadjikeui. The Kaimakam of the town ordered the people to give up their arms, which they were doing quietly enough, when Shefket Pasha interfered and said he must have all the arms that instant. The Kaimakam being bullied completely lost his head, and said the people would not give up their arms, upon this Shefket Pasha ordered his troops *to take them;* a great many houses were thus pillaged and the place was only saved from destruction by the interference of a Mussulman named Hafiz Effendi, a most noble and liberal minded man. Braving the opinion of his co-religionists he took as many Christian families as he could into his house, and going to Shefket insisted that that the plundering should be stopped.

I am aware that as regards the killed at Boyadjikeui my figures do not tally with

those of others who have made inquiries on the spot as well as I have, but I can only give the estimate given to me both by the villagers themselves and by an Armenian gentleman who resides on the spot.

The remark, however, that I made about Batak applies equally here; what makes the act of Shefket Pasha so abominable is that there was not a semblance of revolt, the inhabitants were perfectly peaceable, and the attack on them was as cruel and wanton a deed as could well have been committed. Moreover, Shefket Pasha was not a mere Chief of Bashi-Bazouks, but a "Ferik," who had fought in the Herzegovina, and who ought not to have been inspired by a love of bloodshed or plunder like an Achmet Agha or a Mahmoud Agha.

For this heroic exploit Shefket Pasha has received a high place at the palace. It is worthy of note that when the Mutessarif of Slimnia was endeavouring to obtain the restoration of the cattle taken at Boyadjikeui, and which was in the possession of some of the so-called "Soultans," the latter replied that, as it was a gift from Shefket Pasha, they had a legitimate right to it.

The following is the official list of prisoners tried, condemned, or released by the Special Tribunal (Mekhiemeifevh-el-ade) of Phillippopolis up to August 5th :—

	No.
Condemned to hard labour	60
Condemned to death, but not executed	2
Executed	25
Released	1,400
Sent to Adrianople or elsewhere, on account of non-competence of Tribunal..	150
Died of a natural death	25
Remain in prison	294
	1,956

I have no official return for the Tribunal of Adrianople, but I believe about 1,200 people were imprisoned there; eleven were hung for being implicated in this years' insurrection, and seven for being implicated in the rising at Eski-Zaghra last October.

Prisoners condemned to death were executed in the different towns of the Province.

Since this list was given me, the amnesty to certain classes of prisoners has been published, and it is not probable that there are many men still in confinement.

The persons implicated in the rising were tried before Mixed Tribunals, composed of Turkish, Bulgarian, Greek, Armenian, and Jewish members, established at Philippopolis, Adrianople, and Tournova. The former was presided over by Selim Effendi, and when the Tribunal of Tournova had finished its labours, Ali Shefik Bey, its President, came to Philippopolis to assist him. All parties agree in their praise of Ali Bey's character. As regards Selim Effendi, opinions are more conflicting. My own idea is that he is not an unjust or an unmerciful man; one batch of prisoners was, I know, saved from the gallows by his casting-vote, on an occasion when all the other Mussulman members of the Tribunal had voted for the extreme penalty of the law. Selim Effendi had been previously employed at Eski Zaghra, in investigating the circumstances connected with the outbreak there last year.

He has also been, and still is, a member of the Criminal Court of Cassation, one of the sections of the High Court of Justice.

The member of the Tribunal of Philippopolis who enjoyed the most unenviable reputation was Mehmet Ali Hodjizude, who is accused of many corrupt practices.

The prisoners were first examined before the Tribunal of First Instance, where their depositions were taken, and then before the Special Commission. When before the latter they were defended by a Christian; but on the only occasion I attended at the Court, it was hard to say whether the prisoners or their Counsel displayed the most abject signs of terror.

It is, however, but fair to say that the four men I saw tried, one and all made confessions which rendered their defence no easy matter.

The depositions they had made were read over to them, and signed by them. Not one of them denied the truth of what he had previously stated, or declared that his confessions had been extorted from him by unfair means.

Surely, if these men had been intimidated or tortured, at the last moment, feeling the rope almost round their necks, they would have taken advantage of the presence of Europeans to declare their innocence.

Anyhow, they could be hung but once, and their case could not be made worse by a protest of this nature.

Of course, I am only speaking of what I actually saw, as it was naturally impossible for me to attend many sittings of the Court.

It has been said that the prisoners do not understand the language in which the proceedings are carried on; the four men I heard tried spoke Turkish fluently and correctly, and the style used in the depositions was by no means a difficult one.

Sandjak of Tournova, Vilayet of Touna.—The head-quarters of the insurgents in this province were at Rakovitza, near Tournova, and here a meeting of them was surprised by zaptiehs.

Immediately after this a band of about 400 men, principally from Rakovitza, after showing some slight resistance to the troops in the open, shut themselves up in the monastery of Dranova, $\frac{\text{April 29}}{\text{May 11}}$.

The Bashi-Bazouks who had been called out hung round the place for about ten days without doing anything, except plunder in the neighbourhood, the village of Dranova itself luckily escaping being pillaged by the firmness of a "bimbashi."

Fasli Pasha then arrived from Schumla, bombarded the monastery, took it, burnt and pillaged it; 120 of its defenders were killed, five were taken, one of whom was hanged, the rest escaped.

Before Fasli Pasha got his artillery up he called upon the insurgents several times to surrender; but they asked for terms which the Pasha refused to grant.

The Turks only lost one man killed.

The destruction of this monastery, which was 200 years old, and contained valuable manuscripts, &c., is certainly a matter of regret, but still it cannot be called an unjustifiable act.

A few other bands of insurgents, with flags, made their appearance in the mountains near Gabrova, and one of them attacked the zaptiehs, who were escorting the post, killing one and wounding one.

Another zaptieh was also killed in the neighbourhood of Boyintze.

In the Caza of Seloi there were also some signs of revolt, and a man named Philo, of Gabrova, going to the village of Seloi-Yenikeui (Novo Selo), succeeded—by telling the usual amount of falsehoods—in making the people prepare for resistance.

Circassians and other irregulars, under the leadership of Sadoullah Effendi and Deli Nedjib Effendi, Kaimakam of Plevna, soon arrived on the scene, and the insurrection was stamped out without any difficulty.

Numerous arrests were made, and a considerable number of innocent people were no doubt imprisoned.

During my tour in this province I saw no village *totally* burnt, nor, indeed, did I hear of any that had been so utterly destroyed as those I had just left on the other side of the Balkans. This partial immunity may be accounted for in the following way:—

All the houses of these villages do not lie close together, but are scattered about in groups of from 10 to 100, sometimes more than a mile apart. It is in this way that many small quarters escaped the attention of the Bashi-Bazouks.

The largest village partially destroyed is Seloi-Yenikeui (not to be confounded with Tcheumlek-Yenikeui in the district of Philippopolis), which consisted of 1,200 houses, 710 of which are now burnt. I have already mentioned the visit of Philo.

When the Bashi-Bazouks arrived under Sadoullah Effendi, a sort of feeble engagement was kept up for two days. There were not more than 100 guns in the whole village, most of the people being only armed with spades and hoes. As soon as the Bashi-Bazouks decided on entering the village the inhabitants fled. It was then that Deli Nedjib arrived with his Circassians, and general pillage commenced.

Yenikeui possessed a convent containing thirty-three nuns, which has been totally destroyed. When the Circassians came these women took refuge in the church, which was broken open, and seven of them murdered, besides one priest and five other men.

How the rest escaped is a perfect marvel. One old nun, who gave an extremely clear account of what passed, told me that during the carnage she managed to slip out of the door and get into the fields. Here she was met by some Bashi-Bazouks, who beat her and tried to get money from her; finding she had none they let her go, and she climbed up a low tree, where she passed the night.

Another nun lay all night hid in a sewer.

Fourteen of these nuns are known to be alive and in places of safety; seven, I have said, were killed in the church; twelve others remain to be accounted for.

Villagers, priests, and nuns all declared to me that these latter had not been killed, though no one could say what had become of them.

As regards the loss of life in the village, a statement drawn up by the villagers shows that 120 men, 20 women, and 10 children were killed, making a total of 150, including those killed near Kalofer, on the other side of the mountains.

It is from this village that the forty girls, who were said to have been burnt in a barn, are supposed to have come; the villagers positively denied the truth of this story, though they said that many women had been ravished, often in the presence of their relations.

The loss in cattle here seems to have been considerable, viz., 4,500 horses, oxen, and cows, 8,400 sheep, 1,500 goats, and 6,500 lambs.

Batoschovo, a village of 600 houses, near Yenikeui. The Bashi-Bazouks burnt 180 houses, killed 44 men, women, and children, and carried off 150 oxen, 950 buffaloes, 140 horses, and 3,300 sheep and goats.

The monastery, which takes its name from this village, has also been partially burnt, and totally pillaged. The church has not been burnt, but plundered and damaged.

Gabina—30 houses burnt, out of 1,200, and 200 completely pillaged; 20 men and 1 woman killed. The insurgents passed through this village, and three gipsies were killed, but the inhabitants did not take to the mountains. Nedjib Effendi wanted to destroy the whole place, but the headmen gave him a paper undertaking to arrest any insurgents who might pass this way, and he desisted; twenty men, however, were arrested and taken to Selvi, being badly beaten on the way; one man died from the effects of a blow from the butt-end of a gun.

Spavnik—180 houses burnt out of 280; church also burnt; 50 men and 23 women killed.

Stokit—3 houses burnt.

Guendjoftsi—15 houses burnt and many others pillaged.

Khandik Mahallin—partially plundered by fifteen soldiers, who, while marching through, broke the ranks and pillaged.

The man who comes out worst in this affair is Nedjib Effendi, who has been decorated. When he arrived at Yenikeui all resistance was at an end; and he, as a Government officer, should certainly not have allowed his men to pillage and burn.

Orders have been sent from Tournova to distribute rations of flour among the destitute people of Yenikeui. This order is not, however, properly carried out, for the Turkish official and the Bulgarian Tchorbadji charged with the distribution demand 2 piastres an oke from the people which, of course, they are utterly unable to pay.

I heard another instance of official oppression there. The people are told to transport the Government grain, but all their sacks have been burnt or carried off. The reply is: "Never mind, it is your duty to transport the Government grain, and transport it you must."

In the Caza of Gabrova twelve houses were burnt in the village of Yeni-Mahalle, and eight in the village of Guendjilar, by order of Fasli Pasha. Besides this a number of isolated khans on the northern side of the mountains, on the road between Shipka and Gabrova, were burnt.

The man who took the leading part in organizing the disturbances in this district was one Hariton, a native of Gabrova, who had, however, lived several years in Servia.

The reason assigned by Fasli Pasha for burning the houses at Yeni-Mahalle was that insurgents had held a meeting in the school there.

When he went to the village he was accompanied by Abdoullah Effendi, the "Emlakdji," who gratified private vengeances by pointing out to the troops the houses of the richest people for them to burn and plunder.

Fasli Pasha seems to have behaved in a high-handed and tyrannical way at Gabrova. On his way there he arrested two men of Bojintzi who were totally unconnected with the revolution, and brought them to Gabrova; he then indulged freely in his favourite vice of drinking, and when under the influence of "raki," ordered the prisoners to be hung immediately.

The "Tabour Aghace" who received this order, to his credit, refused to carry it out unless the Pasha gave it him in writing, upon which he was put under arrest; another officer, less troubled by conscientious scruples, was called up, and the two men were hung. The next morning, it is said, the Pasha asked to have the prisoners brought up before him.

One hundred and sixty-nine persons were arrested at Gabrova, many without apparent cause, and sent to Tournova to be tried.

One native of Gabrova, Tzanko, who had received the uncomplimentary sobriquet of "dustaban" (the flat-footed), a man of notoriously bad character, took an active part in the insurrection, and was arrested by the Bulgarians themselves. On being condemned to death he declared that all the well-to-do men of Gabrova were implicated in the rising, but on being pressed, he positively stated that five men had instigated him to join the insurgents. One of these, Yekim Tchanko, was hanged, and the four sentenced to hard labour. The inhabitants of Gabrova declare that Tzanko's statement was merely prompted by a spirit of revenge, and a petition to the Grand Vizier, praying for the release of these men, was being got up when I was in the place.

Koroleff, a school-master of Gabrova was imprisoned for twenty-eight days on very slight suspicion.

In the neighbourhood of Tournova no villages were totally burnt, but at Isinga, Koryaka, Elentse, Zoya, Tsarlova, Livada, and Sokolya, acts of violence and plunder were committed, while at Gantchovitz some khans were burnt.

At Kadikeui, also, there were cases of rape and pillage.

At Gonvantcha, the Multezim, Rassim Effendi, wanted the inhabitants to transport the Government tithes; this they refused to do, and he accordingly drew up a paper asking the authorities to send troops on account of the presence of rebels. This paper he showed to the "Tcherbadjis," but, being in Turkish, they could not read it; and Rassim Effendi representing it to be about some matter of no importance, they affixed their seals to it. The consequence was the troops came and committed acts of pillage and ravished numbers of women.

It appears that a good deal of fanaticism was displayed by Réouf Pasha, Mutessarif of Tournova, and had he been left to himself, the number of executions would have been at least tripled; but fortunately the President of the Special Commission, Ali Shefik Bey, was a just man, who always, when it was possible, leaned to the side of mercy.

The following is the official list of condemned, &c., by the Special Tribunal of Tournova:—

Imprisoned, 472	
Released	430
Executed	22
Condemned to different terms of imprisonment.	20
	472
Of these were hung at—	
Tournova	16
Seloi	5
Lonitz	1
Add to these the two hung at Gabrova by Fasli Pasha.	

As regards the loss of life in these districts, it is extremely difficult for me to form a correct estimate. The greatest number of people were killed at Yenikeui, where, as I have said, the numbers amount to 150. In the other villages in that neighbourhood which I visited, or about which I could obtain reliable information, it appears that about another 150 people were killed. I thus can account for about 300 people, and I do not imagine that in the Mutessariflik of Tournova more than 600 people perished, including those who were killed at the taking of the Dranova Monastery.

On the other hand very few Mussulmans were killed; all I could hear of were three gipsies, two zaptiehs, and one soldier.

Having thus far reviewed the circumstances which attended the outbreak and suppression of the Bulgarian insurrection, it is now necessary to consider briefly the present condition of the country.

The revenue derived by Government from the Sandjak of Philippopolis has, in former years, been estimated at 800,000 Turkish pounds; this will now be diminished by at least one-third, and it will require many years of tranquillity and good Government before things return to their proper condition; *e.g.*, the destruction of Batak has ruined the trade in sawn planks. The destruction of Dervent and general insecurity of the valley between Sopot and Kezanlik reduces by one-half the export of attar-of-roses, while the burning of Peroustitza and the partial destruction of Vetren will greatly injure the trade in wine and silk.

In some places, I regret to say, the Government officials are endeavouring to screw the taxes out of the people whose villages have been destroyed. This proceeding is unwise, to say the least of it; what is the use of endeavouring to extract money from people who are nearly entirely ruined? If you take from them what little they

have left, you deprive them of the means of regaining what they have lost. The Government should consider this, as, instead of losing their revenue for a time, it will be lost to them for ever.

Again, here is a case of Government injustice as regards forced labour. The people of Bellova had 400 oxen, they have now 60; five yoke are working at the reconstruction of the blockhouse destroyed by insurgents. A Government order comes for 40 arabas (80 oxen) to transport stores, only half this number is, of course, forthcoming, and the soldiers on their arrival beat the people.

It is no doubt hard to expect that the Porte, with its present financial difficulties pressing on it, and with a war for the breaking out of which it is in no way to blame raging on its frontier, can make any pecuniary sacrifices; but still, in its own interests, it should come forward to help the unfortunate people who are now homeless. Certainly some assistance should be given them towards rebuilding their houses; otherwise, if winter comes on and still finds them huddled together in tents and straw huts, insufficiently clad (for, in many instances, their clothes had been stolen), and badly fed, the mortality among them will be frightful, and I cannot imagine that it is in the interests of the Porte or of any Government to allow any portion of its subjects to died by hundreds of starvation.

In the Province of Slimnia the Mutessarif has done something at Boyadjikeui towards helping the inhabitants to rebuild their houses. He visited the place himself, made inquiries, and did his best to mend matters.

If his example had been followed by other officials in the country, beneficial results would have followed.

If the Porte, owing to its financial condition, cannot absolutely give aid in money, let it at any rate perform the duties of a Government and make life and property secure.

At present the Christians are afraid to go about the country, and the peasants dare not even work in the fields at any distance from the villages.

When at Avrat Alan, the Mudir told me that a few days before, a girl of twelve years old had been violated in the fields by Turks of Ayvanli, and complained that, with the force at his disposal, he was powerless to prevent such outrages.

Take, for instance, Gabrova, which has a large trade in shayak (coarse cloth) and gaytan (a sort of braid). In the interests of their business these traders have to travel about a good deal, but now without an escort they cannot move from their town.

The only way to put an end to this deplorable state of things is for the Government to impress upon the Mussulmans that they must leave their Christian neighbours in peace, and nothing but a few striking examples will really make the former believe that the authorities are serious in their intentions.

The next thing to do is to disarm the Turks, and above all the Circassians. The latter have lived by robbery ever since they have been in the country, and henceforth, what with the insurrection and what with the war, they will become ten times worse than they were before.

I am aware that it is easier to talk about this general disarming than to put it into execution; it would require a larger force than the authorities of Philippopolis at any rate have at their disposal, but when the war is over, and the regulars are on their way home, the Government should take the opportunity of their presence to disarm every Mussulman in the country. As long as the latter walk about armed as they do now, while the Christians are quite defenceless, so long will deeds of violence take place.

For the present, what is most wanted is a regiment of cavalry, which could do patrol work, and would perhaps make the roads more secure than they now are. At the request of the Mutessarif of Philippopolis, some men were sent for this purpose, but they were almost immediately ordered off to the seat of war, and they have not been replaced by others.

A loss that presses heavily upon the villagers is that of their cattle, without their oxen their fields are useless to them, they can neither gather their harvests, plough, nor do anything else.

A great number of beasts fell into the hands of the authorities at Philippopolis and elsewhere, who, I really believe, were desirous of giving them up to their owners, but, unfortunately, in this, as in everything else in this country between the superior authorities and the peasant, there comes the subordinate official who, unless he is properly propitiated, raises every sort of difficulty.

However, while I was at Philippopolis a certain quantity of cattle was given up, and Kiani Pasha proposed a plan which I have reported elsewhere, but the working of which I am unable to speak about.

The Government must not stop here, it must compel the Pomaks, Circassians, and others who have cattle and other stolen property in their possession to give them up. I know this is no easy matter, as the Circassians, in particular, when called upon to give up what they have carried off reply that it is their legitimate property, having been taken in open war.

In many cases when the authorities have sent a zaptieh with villagers who know that their cattle is in the possession of some Turks, the latter have treated the official mazbata with derision.

One man at Seloi Yenikeui recognised his horse in the possession of a Turk, he complained to the Kaimakam who made the latter give it up. The Turk, however, waylaid the Bulgarian outside the town of Seloi, and beat him within an inch of his life. The consequence, of course, is that the villagers are afraid to claim their property.

In the neighbourhood of Yeni Zaghra and Yamboli the inhabitants suffer considerably from the oppression of men known as the "Soultans," the direct lineal descendants of Tartars who had large grants of land given them some three centuries ago.

Successive Governments have confiscated portions of this land and the "Soultans" have recouped themselves by taking that of their neighbours. They also impose forced labour on the Rayahs, and otherwise annoy them.

What is wanted to restore tranquillity is a strong hand and a master mind. There is now blood between the Christian and Moslem, and each one regards the other with bitter animosity. To allay this, and to cause things again to flow in their natural channel, requires a man of no ordinary capabilities, who with powers enlarged beyond those of an ordinary Governor, and action unhampered by too many orders and counter-orders from the central Government, would deal out justice unflinchingly and impartially to Mussulmans and Rayahs. No half-measures will be of any avail, they would only irritate the Mussulmans, and not satisfy the Christians.

The course the Porte ought to adopt is self-evident, but it must decide for itself whether Bulgaria is to continue in a state of anarchy, or whether it is little by little to resume its old tranquil conditions.

As regards the question which has of late so profoundly agitated public opinion, viz., the atrocities committed in the suppression of the insurrection, no one looks upon them with greater abhorrence than I do, or wishes less to palliate them, as I think any impartial person can easily see who peruses this report. However, it appears to me that those who first brought the matter forward have too studiously ignored the fact that there ever was an insurrection at all.

The idea that a person, totally unacquainted with the facts of the case, would gather from their statements would be, that the Mussulmans, without the smallest provocation, had simply fallen on the Christians and massacred them; in fact, that what really did take place at Boyadjikeui took place at every village throughout Bulgaria.*

I do not suppose that anybody will come forward and deny that the Bulgarians committed the first overt acts of rebellion, and that they shed the first blood. What could be more cold-blooded than the murder of the gipsies and other Mussulmans at Avrat-Alan? It is said the gipsies were going to plunder the villages, but there is not a jot of evidence to prove this intention, and, moreover, it is likely that about 100 men could sack a large and populous place like Avrat-Alan?

It has been denied that a single Mussulman village was burnt or a single mosque destroyed, when with my own eyes I have seen the ruins of both.

The Mussulmans of Streldja are also undergoing considerable misery.

The fact is that when the revolution declared itself the most indescribable panic seized upon the Mussulmans; they expected an invasion of Servians and Russians, they knew themselves to be in an immense minority, they credited the Bulgarians with courage and fighting power which they certainly never possessed, and they thought that immediate massacre would be their fate. When, therefore, they found that their foes were not so formidable as they thought they would be, they revenged themselves most cruelly for the panic into which they had been thrown.

The Province was denuded of troops, the police force was and still is extremely small, and many of its members were wretchedly armed with flint carbines and long Albanian guns which might have been made in the last century.

The provincial authorities sent urgent appeals to Constantinople for troops, but unfortunately Mahmoud Pasha, who is generally credited in Bulgaria with having

* When I talk of an insurrection, I wsh it to be understood that I do not apply that term to what took place in the province of Slimnia, where the attacks of the Turks were really unprovoked.

given ear to those baneful counsels which have brought his country to the brink of ruin, delayed sending the aid asked for. It was then that Akif Pasha had recourse to the dangerous expedient of calling an ignorant and fanatical population to arms.

Akif Pasha actually issued this fatal order, but Mahmoud Pasha stands none the less plainly convicted of culpable negligence for not having sent troops the moment they were asked for, and the enemies of Turkey may have the satisfaction of knowing that the neglect of that one man has done her more real harm than twelve months unsuppressed insurrection in the Herzegovina and Bosnia.

As regards the importance of the insurrection, it was neither so formidable as the Turks in their first panic thought it was, nor so utterly insignificant as many people wish to make it out to be.

The principal instigators came entirely from abroad, and without foreign intrigue no revolution would have broken out; but it is not easy to say really to what degree they succeeded in indoctrinating the people with their revolutionary and Panslavistic ideas.

The Bulgarian as a rule is not made of the stuff which produces a revolutionist; he is rather conservative, hard working, thrifty, somewhat apathetic, and far from courageous. The priests and schoolmasters were probably those who lent the most ready ear to revolutionary teachings, and some of the "tchorbadjis" were also drawn into the affair, but I believe the majority of the respectable Bulgarians took no real part in it.

Had the province been peopled by Greeks, the scenes of the Cretan insurrection would have been repeated, and the rule of the Mahomedans would have been placed in serious jeopardy.

Wherever there is Turkish rule, there, owing to its inherent faults, there will be Christian discontent. Last spring this was naturally heightened by the total failure of Mahmoud Pasha's high-sounding firman of reforms, by the deaf ear turned by the Porte to petitions from Bulgaria, and by the heavy pressure of taxation. Add to this the difficulties in which the Turkish Government was involved, and latterly, also, the fear of some outbreak of Mussulman fanaticism, which prevailed more or less throughout Turkey.

The foreign agitators and those natives whom they had succeeded in seducing seized upon this apparently favourable opportunity to strike a blow: the peasants were deluded into leaving their villages by being told that the Turks were going to massacre them, and the population of the small towns was induced to take part in the insurrection by threats and by the most extravagant promises of foreign aid.

The revolution was well planned, but miserably executed. The heart of the people was evidently not in it; and many of them apparently thought that all that was necessary for success was a green flag, with a lion rampant, and "Liberty or death" embroidered on it.

The insurgents put themselves in the wrong by killing defenceless Turks and committing other acts of insurrection, but the resistance they made when actually attacked was hardly worthy of the name.

The Turks gained an easy victory, and abused it most shamefully, the innocent being made to suffer for the guilty in a manner too horrible to think of. Moreover, unscrupulous persons did not hesitate to gratify private vengeance on this occasion, and many a debtor got rid of an importunate creditor by denouncing, or threatening to denounce, him as a "Committee dji."

A thousand regulars sent to Otlou-keui, Avrat-Alan, and Bratzigovo, and a few more to Bellova, where the presence of Benkowsky gave the insurrection rather more importance, would in a few days have stamped out every vestige of revolution. The really guilty might have been punished, and a suitable example made, and the world would not have been horrified by the accounts of massacres of women and children and of wholesale burning and pillaging.

The Porte has, moreover, given a powerful handle to its enemies and detractors by the way it has treated those who took an active part in the suppression of the insurrection. Those who have committed atrocities have been rewarded; while those who have endeavoured to protect the Christians from the fury of the Bashi-Bazouks and others have been passed over with contempt; *e.g.*,

Shefket Pasha holds high office in the Palace.

Hafiz Pasha has a command in Servia.

Achmet Agha has been decorated; so have Tossoun Bey and Nedjib Effendi, Kaimakam of Plevna.

On the other hand, has any reward been given to Hafiz Effendi, who saved

Yamboli; to the Mutevelli of Karlovo; to Husni Effendi, Commander of the troops at Yamboli, who saved those places; to Rustem Effendi, Yuzbashi at Tournova, who having fought against insurgents really in arms, saved the prisoners from the fury of the mob; or to Haydar Effendi, Mutessarif of Slimnia?*

It will, perhaps, be said that in this report I have made but slight mention of that of Edib Effendi. I do not look upon that document as of very great importance.

The first part of it, which treats of the origin of the insurrection, is pretty correct, and I believe that the paper said to have been found upon Benkowsky, containing the insurgent plan of action, to be genuine. It is worthy of note that this document distinctly says that those Mussulmans who offer no resistance are to be spared.

What Edib Effendi says about the way the insurrection was suppressed may be dismissed without much comment, his account of Batak and Boyadjikeui being sufficient to condemn that part of his report.

In speaking of the present state of the country he remarks pathetically that "the Christians are not yet completely convinced of the pacific attitude of the Mussulmans." Perhaps after all that has happened this is scarcely to be wondered at.

What he says about the restitution of the cattle is not in accordance with fact. Certainly not more than one-third of the stolen property has been restored, and it is only with the greatest difficulty that the peasants have recovered what little they now have.

The report of Chakir Bey on the Vilayet of the Danube, though imperfect, is fairer than Edib Effendi's, as he does not deny that Circassians and others committed acts of pillage, which he does not justify.

This already too long report may be brought to a close with the following remarks:—

There was undoubtedly a revolution which had to be suppressed by armed force.

A small minority of the population committed reprehensible acts which merited punishment.

The Government of Mahmoud Pasha is to blame for the calling out of the Bashi-Bazouks, for had it sent troops earlier this disastrous measure would never have been necessary.

It is also to blame for allowing revolutionary agents to circulate under its very eyes, without taking measures to counteract the spread of their pernicious doctrines.

The manner in which the rising was suppressed was inhuman in the last degree, fifty innocent persons suffering for every guilty one.

The deeds of blood I have spoken of, and the misery I have witnessed, must rouse just indignation in every mind; but the infamous conduct of those agitators who, to serve the selfish ends of States, whose only object is territorial aggrandizement, have not shrunk from exciting poor, ignorant peasants to revolt, thus desolating thousands of homes, and leaving to a fine, rich province, a legacy of tears, should not be allowed to escape without their share of public execration.

In this report, full as it doubtlessly is of faults and shortcomings, I have striven, to the best of my poor abilities, to lay before Her Majesty's Government a fair and unbiassed account of the result of my inquiries and observations during the mission entrusted to me.

I have naturally not been able to visit every burnt village nor investigate every individual case of suffering, and no doubt many things have escaped my notice, but I trust I have been able to give a generally correct idea of what took place.

My information I have gathered from all sources, Bulgarian, Turkish, Greek, Armenian, Servian, &c.

I have not considered it part of my duty, as some seem to think I ought to have, to reject as utterly unworthy of credence, and without examination, every jot and tittle of evidence that came to me from a Turkish source, and swallow with avidity, and without the smallest attempt at enquiry, every story told by a Bulgarian, simply because he was a Bulgarian.

Putting aside official statements, which in cases like the present must always be looked upon with some distrust, the word of a Turk is in all probability worth that of a Bulgarian, particularly among the lower classes.

* Hassan Pasha refused to allow Bashi-Bazouks to burn Bratzigovo, for which act he was violently abused by the Turks of Bazardjik.

It is, therefore, the duty of a person conducting an inquiry, such as the one I have lately been engaged in, to collect all the evidence he can from every possible source, and then carefully sift it, rejecting all improbabilities, from whatever side they may come.

I can honestly state that I started with no preconceived ideas, though in the eyes of certain persons this was reprehensible in the last degree, and that it has been throughout my earnest wish neither to palliate nor to exaggerate the acts of Turks or Bulgarians.

Before closing, I think it my duty to bear witness to the extreme courtesy shown to me by the Turkish authorities and people wherever I went, while engaged on a mission which could not possibly be very flattering to their national pride; and I state without the smallest hesitation that not once did the authorities endeavour to place obstacles in my way, or try to prevent my visiting particular localities, or holding perfectly free communication with the natives.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Therapia, September 1, 1876.

Inclosure 2 in No. 220.

Report by Mr. Schuyler on the Bulgarian Atrocities.

Mr. Schuyler to the Hon. Horace Maynard.

Sir, *Philippopoli, August* 10, 1876.

IN reference to the atrocities and masacres committed by the Turks in Bulgaria, I have the honour to inform you that I have visited the towns of Adrianople, Philippopoli, and Tatar-Bazardjik, and the villiages of Stenimakho, Kadi-keui, Kritshma, Peroustitsa, Peshtera, Radilovo, Batak, Kalaglari, Panagurishta (Otlouk-keui), Koprishtitza (Avrat-Alan), and Klissura (Persiden or Dervent), in the districts of Philippopoli and Bazardjik.

From what I have personally seen, and from the inquiries I have made and the information I have received, I have ascertained the following facts:—

During the last winter and spring Agents of the Bulgarian Committee at Bucharest made an agitation in Bulgaria for an insurrection against the Turkish Government, and met with considerable encouragement among the younger part of the population. Owing to the betrayal of the plot the insurrection broke out prematurely on the 1st and 2nd of May in the villages of Klissura, Koprishtitsa, Panagurishta, Avro-Selo, Bellova, and perhaps one or two others. There was great alarm, and even a panic at Tatar-Bazardjik and Philippopoli. Numerous telegrams were sent to the Porte for regular troops which, after some delay, were refused.

The Beys of Philoppopoli and Adrianople practically seized on the Government and armed the Mussulman inhabitants of the towns and of the country, arms being sent for that purpose from Adrianople and Constantinople. These armed Mussulmans, called irregular troops or Bashi-Bazouks, were then, together with the few regular troops at hand, sent into a campaign against the Bulgarian villages for the purpose of putting down the insurrection, and of disarming the Christian population. But few Circassians seem to have been employed at this time. Their settlements are east of Adrianople. It was a "levée en masse" of the Mussulman villages against their Christian neighbours.

The insurgent villages made little or no resistance. In many cases they surrendered their arms on the first demand. Nearly all the villages which were attacked by the Bashi-Bazouks were burnt and pillaged, as were also all those which had been abandoned by the terrified inhabitants. The inhabitants of some villages were massacred after exhibitions of the most ferocious cruelty, and the violation not only of women and girls, but even of persons of the other sex. The crimes were committed by the regular troops as well as by the Bashi-Bazouks.

The number of villages which were burnt in whole or in part in the districts of Phillipoppoli and Tatar Bazardjik, is at least sixty-five, of which the names are as follows:—

District of Philippopoli.

Sindjirli, 200 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Staro-Novo, Selo, 300 houses, 1 church, 1 school.

Yeleshnitza, 90 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Krastovo, 100 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Uzun Geren, 70 houses.
Erili, 200 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Sary-Gul, 45 houses.
Aivadjik, 50 houses.
Pashtusha, 20 houses, 1 church.
Zdrebetchka, 90 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Yasy-koria, 140 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Kozarsko, 110 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Tsaratsovo.
Perushtitsa, 400 houses, 2 churches, 2 schools.
Uzun-Jak-Kirish.
Lishka.
Saradja.
Stribnitsa.
Pega.
Yünjülar.
Kavak-tiré.
Aarisa-keui.

District of Koptchus.

Poikovo, 60 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Diedovo, 20 houses burnt.
Sotir.
Sitovo, plundered, but not burnt.

District of Tatar Bazardjik.

Klissura (Persiden Dervent), 700 houses, 1 church, 2 schools.
Koprishtitza (Avrat Alan), plundered, not burnt.
Batak, 900 houses, 1 church, 3 schools.
Victrona, 600 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Stultcha (mixed), 440 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Popintsa, 1 church, 1 school.
Radulovo, 160 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Kara-Musal, 1 church, 1 school.
Slavovitsa, 1 church, 1 school.
Akandjivo, 1 church, 1 school.
Tchanaktchievo, 1 church, 1 school.
Doganovo.
Ilshitsa, 1 church, 1 school.
Kalaglari (mixed), 160 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Jumaya, 1 church, 1 school.
Keruli.
Golaka.
Deri-Orman.
Syrt-Orman, 1 church, 1 school.
Tikyra.
Novo-Selo.
Bega, 60 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Oldjulan, 1 church, 1 school.
Elli-diré, 1 church, 1 school.
Eshi-Kashli, 80 houses.
Lianovo.
Shiakhlari, 1 church, 1 school.
Kulata, 1 church, 1 school.
Kasapli.
Tserovo, 150 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Hadjili.
Dinkata, 1 church, 1 school.
Karisli.
Zlakatchin, 1 church, 1 school.

Stcherkovo, 1 church, 1 school.
Kaloyerovo.
Lusitchovo, 1 church, 1 school.
Mitchka, 1 church, 1 school.
Petritch.
Lishnitzo.
Panagurishta (Otluk-keui), 3,000 houses, 2 churches, 3 schools.

This list may not be entirely correct, as many towns have both Turkish and Bulgarian names, and they may be repeated in one or two instances. Some villages, too, are probably omitted. Owing to the absence of statistics it is impossible exactly to ascertain the population of each village, and in many cases I have not been able to learn the number of houses. In general as long as the patriarch, or father of a family, is alive his married sons live with him, so that there are frequently families of 15, 20, and even of 39 persons. The population of a village would be, therefore, larger than for the same number of houses in other countries. In the larger villages the lower stories of the houses are of stone, the roofs are tiled, the streets are paved, and there is a general air of comfort and well-being. Particular attention was given by the troops to the churches and schools, which in some cases were destroyed with petroleum and gunpowder. The altars were overturned, the pictures painted on the walls scratched and pierced, and the holy places defiled and desecrated.

Besides the villages four monasteries were burnt: St. Teodor, near Perushtitza, the Penagia, and the Bezsrabrinitsa, near Kretshma, and St. Nicholas, near Kaloyerovo.

The Turks allege that many of these villages were burnt by the insurgents for the purpose of compelling the Bulgarian inhabitants to join them. I am unable to find that such was the case in more than two or three instances, and even here the proof is very weak. At Bellova the insurgents burnt the railway station in which some zaptiehs had taken refuge.

It is very difficult to estimate the number of Bulgarians who were killed during the few days that the disturbances lasted, but I am inclined to put 15,000 as the lowest for the districts I have named.

The manner in which the troops did their work will be seen from a few details gathered on the spot from persons who escaped from the massacre.

Perushtitsa, a town of 400 houses, and between 3,000 and 4,000 inhabitants, took no active part in the insurrection. Becoming alarmed at the attitude of the Turks in the neighbouring villages, the inhabitants sent a deputation to Aziz Pasha, the Mutessarif of Philippopoli, for regular troops to defend them. He returned them a written message that he had no troops to send, and that they must defend themselves.

When the Bashi-Bazouks appeared before the town, they, therefore, refused to surrender, entrenched themselves in a church, retreating, finally, to another, and held out for five days, until they saw the regular troops under Raschid Pasha, when the remainder gave themselves up. Many of the inhabitants escaped at the beginning of the struggle, but many were shot down. The church was bombarded, and about 1,000 in all were killed, many of them women and children. The town was pillaged and completely burnt, not a single house being now standing. Many women were violated. The floor of the church, the church-yard, and many of the gardens were dug up afterwards in search for buried treasure. The Bashi-Bazouks here were commanded by Ahmed Aga of Tamrysh, who was subsequently rewarded with a silver medal.

Klissura was nearly twice the size of Perushtitsa, and proportionately richer, as many of the inhabitants were engaged in the manufacture of attar-of-roses, and many were merchants travelling through the country. The insurrectionary movement began here on the 2nd of May, but it was not until the 12th that the Bashi-Bazouks, under the command of Tussum Bey of Karlovo, attacked the place. A few shots were fired when the villagers surrendered and fled to Koprishtitsa and to the mountains. More than 250 Bulgarians were killed, chiefly women and children. The Turks claim that 14 Mussulmans, in part gypsies, were killed before and during the fight. As soon as the Bashi-Bazouks entered the town they pillaged it and burnt it, Among other things 450 copper stills used in making attar-of-roses were carried away to the Turkish villages. Subsequent parties carried off all that was left, even to the nails from the doors and the tiles from the roofs. The church was desecrated and blown up. Tussum Bey for this exploit was decorated with the Medjidié.

Koprishtitsa (Avrat Alan), although one of the first villages to rebel, was one of the last to be attacked. Warned by the fate of Klussura and Panagurishta, the leading inhabitants themselves arrested the ringleaders of the insurrection, and sent to Philippopoli for regular troops. In spite of this the bearers of submission were fired on, and one, the priest Dorcho, was killed, the town was several times pillaged, many of the women were violated, and about 30 persons were killed. The town was not burnt, and a general massacre was avoided by large presents of money paid by the leading inhabitants to the Turkish Commanders. Three shots were, however, fired at the church, but did little damage. The villagers admit having killed 10 Turks and 40 gypsies, the latter being suspected of an intention to plunder the town. The Turks claim a total loss of 71.

Panagurishta (Otlut Keui) was attacked by a force of regular troops, together with Bashi-Bazouks, on the 11th of May. Apparently no message to surrender was sent. After a slight opposition on the part of the insurgents the town was taken. Many of the inhabitants fled, but about 3,000 were massacred, the most of them being women and children. Of these about 400 belonged to the town of Panagurishta, and the others to nine neighbouring villages, the inhabitants of which had taken refuge there. 400 buildings, including the bazaars and the largest and best houses, were burnt. Both churches were completely destroyed, and almost levelled to the ground. In one an old man was violated on the altar, and afterwards burnt alive. Two of the schools were burnt, the third, looking like a private house, escaped.

From the numerous statements made to me, hardly a woman in the town escaped violation and brutal treatment. The ruffians attacked children of eight and old women of eighty, sparing neither age nor sex. Old men had their eyes torn out and their limbs cut off, and were thus left to die, unless some more charitably-disposed man gave them the final thrust. Pregnant women were ripped open, and the unborn babes carried triumphantly on the points of bayonets and sabres, while little children were made to bear the dripping heads of their comrades.

This scene of rapine, lust, and murder was continued for three days, when the survivors were made to bury the bodies of the dead. The perpetrators of these atrocities were chiefly regular troops, commanded by Hafiz Pasha. The Turks claim, and the villagers admit, the death of fourteen Mussulmans, two of whom were women, who were killed with arms in their hands, during a conflict with a party that refused to surrender to the insurgents.

While pillage reigned supreme at Kuprishtitsa and lust at Panagurishta, at Batak, the Turks seemed to have no stronger passion than the thirst for blood. This village surrendered without firing a shot, after a promise of safety, to the Bashi-Bazouks under the command of Ahmed Aga, of Burutina, a Chief of the rural police. Despite his promise, the few arms once surrendered, Ahmed Aga ordered the destruction of the village and the indiscriminate slaughter of the inhabitants, about 100 of the young girls being reserved to satisfy the lusts of the conqueror before they too should be killed. I saw their bones, some with the flesh still clinging to them, in a hollow on the hill side, where the dogs were gnawing them. Not a house is now standing in the midst of this lovely valley; the saw-mills (for the town had a large trade in timber and sawn boards) which lined the rapid little river are all burnt, and of the 8,000 inhabitants not 2,000 are known to survive. Fully 5,000 persons—a very large proportion of them women and children—perished here, and their bones whiten the ruins, or their putrid bodies infect the air. The sight of Batak is enough to verify all that has been said about the acts of the Turks in repressing the Bulgarian insurrection, and yet I saw it three months after the massacre. On every side were human bones, skulls, ribs, and even complete skeletons, heads of girls still adorned with braids of long hair, bones of children, skeletons still encased in clothing. Here was a house the floor of which was white with the ashes and charred bones of thirty persons burnt alive there. Here was the spot where the village notable Trandafil was spitted on a pike and then roasted, and where he is now buried. Here was a foul hole full of decomposing bodies; here a mill-dam full of swollen corpses; here the school-house where 200 women and children, who had taken refuge there, were burnt alive; and here the church and churchyard where fully 1,000 half-decayed forms were still to be seen, filling the inclosures in a heap several feet high; arms, feet and heads protruding from the stones which had vainly been thrown there to hide them, and poisoning all the air.

Since my visit, by order of the Mutessarif, the Kaimakam of Tatar Bazardjik was sent to Batak with some lime to aid in the decomposition of the bodies and to prevent a pestilence.

Ahmed Aga, who commanded at this massacre, has been decorated and promoted to the rank of Yuzbashi.

These atrocities were clearly unnecessary for the suppression of the insurrection, for it was an insignificant rebellion at the best, and the villagers generally surrendered at the first summons; nor can they be justified by the state of panic, which was over before the troops set out on the campaign,

An attempt however has been made—and not by Turks alone—to defend and to palliate them on the ground of the previous atrocities, which, it is alleged, were committed by the Bulgarians.

I have carefully investigated this point, and am unable to find that the Bulgarians committed any outrages or atrocities, or any acts that deserve that name. I have vainly tried to obtain from the Turkish officials a list of such outrages, but have heard nothing but vague statements. I was told by Kiany Pasha that the insurgents killed the wife and daughter of the Mudir of Koprishtitsa; but this Mudir had recently gone there, and had left his wife at Eski Saara, where she still resides, and he had no daughter. I was also told of the slaughter of the Mudir of Panagurishta; but at the time mentioned that village had no Mudir. I was referred for information to Hafez Nuri Effendi, a leading Turk of Philippopolis. In a very careful statement made by him, he sets the number of Mussulmans (including gypsies) killed during the troubles at 155, of whom 12 are women and children; the word children taken to mean any one under 20 years of age. I have been able to obtain proof of the death of only two of these women—at Panagurishta—who certainly were not intentionally killed. No Turkish women or children were killed in cold blood. No Mussulman women were violated. No Mussulmans were tortured. No purely Turkish village was attacked or burnt. No Mussulman's house was pillaged. No Mosque was desecrated or destroyed.

The report of the Turkish Special Commissioner, Edib Effendi, contains statements on this point, as on many others, which are utterly unfounded on fact, and the whole report may be characterized as a tissue of falsehoods.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EUGENE SCHUYLER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 220.

Rapport présenté à la Sublime Porte par Chakir Bey, Commissaire Impérial, envoyé dans le Vilayet du Danube pour procéder à une Enquête sur les Troubles dont cette Province a été le théâtre.

(Traduction.)

JE suis arrivé à Roustchouk, muni d'instructions spéciales, en passant par Varna, Pravadi et Choumla, et après m'être concerté avec le Gouverneur-Général je me suis dirigé vers Tirnova pour faire une tournée d'inspection dans les districts.

Ayant visité en personne toutes les localités sises au nord des Balkans qui se trouvaient encore sous l'émotion des derniers événements, j'y ai procédé à une enquête minutieuse, et j'ai été assez heureux pour calmer la méfiance et l'animosité qui s'étaient déclarées entre les Musulmans et les Chrétiens.

L'objet de ma mission consistait principalement à ramener la confiance dans l'esprit des Musulmans envers les Chrétiens qui s'étaient révoltés et à rassurer ces derniers sur les intentions des Musulmans qui avaient pris les armes pour se défendre. Je devais m'enquérir, en outre, des circonstances qui ont précédé, accompagné et suivi l'insurrection. Aussi, dès mon départ de Varna jusqu'à mon retour de Soulina, me suis-je attaché à atteindre ce double but en donnant dans certaines localités des conseils de modération et en procédant dans d'autres à des investigations minutieuses.

Des actes subversifs s'étaient produits à Tirnova, Servi, Rahova et Ivradja. Les villages de Loftcha, Pelina, Zichtor et Nikboli y avaient pris part et se trouvaient en proie à une certaine effervescence. J'ai donc cru devoir mander séparément auprès de moi les Musulmans et les Chrétiens de ces localités.

J'ai adressé aux premiers des paroles rassurantes. Je leur ai fait entendre que le désir du Gouvernement Impérial est que les Musulmans et les Chrétiens agissent en commun pour la défense de la mère-patrie; que c'étaient là, d'ailleurs, une condition du bien-être de tous; qu'ils devaient ensevelir dans un profond oubli les tristes épreuves du passé et gagner les sympathies des Chrétiens en s'abstenant de toute attaque et de toute récrimination contre eux.

Quant aux Chrétiens, je me suis efforcé de leur faire comprendre que les instigations étrangères auxquelles ils obéissaient visaient à mettre le pays en danger, que cet état de choses leur serait également funeste puisqu'ils étaient tous enfants de la même patrie et qu'ils constituaient eux-mêmes un de ses premiers éléments de grandeur et de prospérité. Je les ai engagés à ne pas céder à ces coupables insinuations et à vivre en bonne harmonie avec leurs compatriotes Musulmans. J'ai ajouté qu'il était de leur intérêt commun de soustraire les Musulmans, et de se soustraire eux-mêmes à cette mutuelle méfiance qui s'était emparée d'eux.

Ces conseils et les arguments sur lesquels ils s'appuyaient ont semblé produire l'effet que j'en attendais.

A Matchin, à Issaktcha et à Baba, où il régnait également une certaine agitation dans les esprits, j'ai tenu à peu près le même langage.

L'enquête à laquelle je me suis livré a démontré que ce sont les comités insurrectionnels siégeant en Serbie et à l'étranger qui ont répandu parmi les Bulgares des idées révolutionnaires et qui les ont encouragés à profiter de la révolte de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine et à ne pas laisser échapper cette occasion qu'ils appelaient favorable. Quelques individus du bas peuple, nourris de ces illusions, se joignirent à ces comités, et se mirent activement à l'œuvre. Il fut décidé de faire éclater simultanément l'insurrection à Aysaridji, à Bassiticha (situés aux environs de Tirnova), à Eslimié, à Avrat-Allan et dans une partie du Balkan Dosbati, au moyen d'émissaires spéciaux qui y avaient été précédemment envoyés. Ces gens sans aveu se sont portés à des actes de nature à dévoiler, même aux Musulmans, leurs coupables desseins et à jeter le trouble et l'inquiétude dans l'esprit de ces populations. Les habitants de Rossititcha et de Yéni-keuy, dépendants du Caza de Servi, ont les premiers levé l'étendard de la rébellion. Ceux de Yeni-keuy, ayant attaqué les Musulmans des villages avoisinants, et commis des violences et des déprédations aux environs de Servi, une lutte s'ensuivit bientôt. A Ratichitcha une autre bande d'insurgés se dirigea vers Diranowa en laissant partout sur son passage des traces d'incendie et de sang, et prit possession du fameux monastère qui devint le siège de l'insurrection.

Fazli Pacha, Commandant du second corps d'armée, marcha à la rencontre des rebelles avec le petit nombre de soldats dont il disposait. Mais, vu l'importance de ce mouvement et la difficulté d'organiser sur le champ des corps de troupes régulières, il fut forcé de former et d'expédier, à la hâte, sur les lieux, un détachement de Bachibozouks et de Tcherkess, détaché du corps créé il y a huit ou dix ans sous le nom de troupes de réserve. C'est ainsi que l'insurrection a pu être localisée et étouffée. Aussitôt après, des actes d'hostilité éclatèrent au nord des Balkans, ce qui donna dès lors au mouvement insurrectionnel un caractère général.

La population Musulmane apprit, non sans appréhension, que des bandes d'insurgés, organisées par les comités, avaient débarqué à Radeski, à Zaporinti et à Couzloudi, et se dirigeaient vers Ivantcha en brûlant les villages et en massacrant les Musulmans qu'ils rencontraient, ainsi que les bergers Tcherkess, presque tous des jeunes gens.

En proie à la plus grande surexcitation et perdant toute confiance, même envers les Chrétiens avec lesquels ils entretenaient de bonnes relations, les Musulmans se sont tous armés.

Si la nouvelle des violences commises sur des femmes Musulmanes au-delà des Balkans, nouvelle mise en circulation par les fauteurs des troubles eux-mêmes, dans le but ostensible de donner plus d'extension à la révolte, se fût répandue de l'autre côté des Balkans, elle aurait eu, assurément, de graves conséquences.

Bien que les autorités locales aient, en présence de ces évènements, fait preuve d'une grande énergie et d'un grand courage, et qu'elles aient activement travaillé à circonscrire l'insurrection, quelques employés subalternes, voyant dans cette rébellion une agression spécialement dirigée contre les Musulmans, se sont naturellement laissés gagner par la méfiance et ont traité avec une certaine indulgence quelques Tcherkess et quelques individus de la population indigène, en armes, qui se sont livrés à des actes de pillage.

C'est ainsi que les Circassiens et les Musulmans, en poursuivant les habitants du village de Yeni-keuy, centre de la révolte, se sont emparés des bestiaux abandonnés comme d'un butin de guerre. Ce mauvais exemple porta la populace à d'autres actes semblables. Les Circassiens réunis des villages Assaich et Tcheruta, dépendants du district de Sichtow, avec quelques autres individus, ont enlevé les bestiaux du village Murad Bey, près de Tirnova, dont les habitants n'avaient pas encore pris part à la révolte et étaient restés dans l'obéissance.

Ces actes isolés prirent bientôt le caractère du pillage et les individus qui s'en rendirent coupables se répandirent dans un ou deux autres villages, où ils enlevèrent

également des bestiaux. Les Bulgares qui, par leur rébellion, se sentaient coupables vis-à-vis de l'autorité, n'osaient cependant formuler aucune plainte. Les villageois qui étaient restés soumis ont, en effet, été victimes de spoliations de ce genre. La panique gagna également le district de Servi, où, à mon arrivée, toutes les boutiques étaient fermées. Ce n'est qu'à force de conseils et d'assurances que j'ai pu ramener les habitants à la confiance et leur faire ouvrir leurs magasins. En même temps j'ai licencié les troupes auxiliaires et, d'accord avec Fazli Pacha, dont le quartier-général était alors à Plona, j'ai procédé au désarmement des Circassiens et de la population indigène. En outre, Fazli Pacha forma des détachements de troupes régulières dont la présence contribua à mettre fin à ces actes coupables et regrettables à tant de titres.

Les agents du Gouvernement furent en même temps chargés de rechercher et de remettre aux propriétaires ou, à défaut, à leurs parents, le bétail appartenant non-seulement à la population paisible, mais encore aux habitants des villages insurgés, tels que Yeni-keuy et autres localités voisines. De la sorte, le bétail enlevé put être retrouvé et restitué à qui de droit.

L'insurrection, qui tout d'abord fit explosion dans le sud des Balkans, pris tout-à-coup de la consistance.

Dans le Vilayet du Danube, ce mouvement éclata plus tard et fut bientôt réprimé. Les Musulmans et les Chrétiens ont eu très peu de morts. Les pertes des Musulmans consistent en quelques enfants et quelques pâtres tués par les Bulgares aux environs de Yeni-keuy et quelques personnes frappées en combattant.

Parmi les Bulgares, les individus qui s'étaient enfermés et fortifiés dans le monastère de Diranowa, ceux qui avaient débarqué à Rahova en bateau à vapeur, et quelques fuyards des combats de Yeni-keuy, ont seuls trouvé la mort. Les renseignements exagérés communiqués par le Directeur des Agences Commerciales à Braïla au Caïmacam de Matchin, et l'inquiétude non-justifiée de ce Caïmacam, ont provoqué la méfiance des Musulmans à l'égard des Chrétiens des villages de Yeni-keuy et de Tcherna, dépendants du district de Matchin. La population, ayant commencé à désarmer les Bulgares, les Chrétiens des villages environnants donnèrent à cet acte une autre interprétation et de graves événements en seraient résultés sans un certain Mahmoud Yazidji, notable de Matchin, qui se rendit dans ce village et réussit, avec le concours d'Elias Effendi, fermier, à empêcher tout acte d'hostilité. Ces deux personnes sont dignes de récompense.

Dans les autres Cazas de Toultcha et dans les Sandjaks de Varna en général, aucun acte répréhensible n'a été commis et aucun village ne s'est révolté. La conduite du Gouverneur de Varna, du Caïmacam de Soulina et de ceux de Kustendjé et de Baba-Dagh, mérite également d'être récompensée.

Tel est, en resumé, le résultat de la mission qui m'a été confiée dans le Vilayet du Danube.

Le 2 Juillet, 1876.

(Translation.)

Report presented to the Sublime Porte by Chakir Bey, Imperial Commissioner, sent to the Vilayet of the Danube to make Inquiry into the Troubles of which that Province has been the scene.

I ARRIVED at Roustchouk, furnished with special instructions, passing by Varna, Provadi, and Choumla, and, after having consulted with the Governor-General, I went towards Tirnova to make a tour of inspection in the districts.

Having visited personally all the places to the north of the Balkans which were still under the influence of the late events, I there instituted a minute inquiry, and I was fortunate enough to be able to calm the distrust and the animosity which had arisen between the Mussulmans and the Christians.

The object of my mission was chiefly to restore confidence amongst the Mussulmans towards the Christians who had revolted, and to reassure the latter as to the intentions of the Mussulmans who had taken up arms to defend themselves. I was to inquire, moreover, into the circumstances which preceded, accompanied, and followed the insurrection. Accordingly, from my departure from Varna until my return to Soulina, I made it my business to attain this double object by giving in some districts quieting advice, and by instituting in others minute investigations.

Insurrectionary acts took place at Tirnova, Servi, Rahova, and Ivradja. The villages of Loftcha, Pelina, Zichtar, and Nikboli took part in these, and were agitated by a

certain excitement. I thought it my duty, therefore, to summon before me separately the Mussulmans and the Christians of these places.

I spoke to the former in a reassuring manner. I made them understand that the wish of the Imperial Government was that the Mussulmans and the Christians should work together for the defence of the mother country; that that was, moreover, a necessary condition for the happiness of all; that they ought to bury in profound oblivion the unhappy events of the past and gain the sympathies of the Christians by abstaining from all attack and all recrimination against them.

With respect to the Christians, I endeavoured to make them understand that the foreign instigations which they followed had the object of endangering the country; that this state of things would be equally disastrous to them, since they were all children of the same country, and that they themselves constituted one of its chief elements of grandeur and prosperity. I advised them not to yield to these culpable insinuations, and to live in harmony with their Mussulman fellow-countrymen. I added that it was to their common interest to induce the Mussulmans to abandon, and to abandon themselves, this mutual mistrust which had taken hold of them.

This advice, and the arguments on which it was based, seemed to produce the effect which I had expected.

I held more or less the same language at Matchin, at Issaktcha, and at Baba, where there was also a certain uneasiness.

The inquiry that I instituted showed that it was the insurrectionary Committees established in Servia and abroad which spread revolutionary ideas among the Bulgarians and encouraged them to profit by the revolt in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and not to let what they called so favourable an opportunity pass. Some individuals of the lower classes, inspired by these illusions, joined these Committees and went actively to work. It was decided that the insurrection should break out simultaneously at Aysaridji, at Bassiticha (situated near Tirnova), at Eslimié, at Avrat-Alan, and in a part of the Balkan Dosboti by means of special envoys who had been previously sent. These unprincipled people proceeded to act in a manner which revealed even to the Mussulmans their culpable designs, and threw the minds of the people into a state of trouble and alarm. The inhabitants of Rossititcha and of Yeni-keuy, hamlets of the Caza of Servi, were the first to raise the standard of rebellion. Those of Yeni-keuy, having attacked the Mussulmans of the neighbouring villages and committed acts of violence and depredation in the neighbourhood of Servi, a fight speedily ensued. At Ratichitcha another band of insurgents went towards Diranowa, leaving everywhere on their track traces of fire and blood, and took possession of the famous monastery which became the head-quarters of the insurrection.

Fazli Pasha, commanding the second army corps, marched against the rebels with the few troops he had at his disposal; but, in view of the importance of the movement and the difficulty of organizing immediately corps of regular troops, he was forced to form and send off hastily to the spot a detachment of Bashi-Bazouks and of Circassians, detached from the corps formed eight or ten years ago under the name of corps of reserve. In this way it was possible to localize and stifle the insurrection. Immediately afterwards, hostile acts broke out to the north of the Balkans, which thenceforward gave to the insurrection a general character.

The Mussulman population learnt, not without apprehension, that some bands of insurgents, organized by the Committees, had debarked at Radeski, at Zaporinti, and at Couzloudi, and were marching towards Ivantcha, burning the villages and massacring the Mussulmans whom they met, as well as the Circassian shepherds, who were almost all young men.

A prey to the greatest excitement, and having lost all confidence, even towards the Christians with whom they were on good terms, all the Mussulmans armed themselves.

If the news of the violence perpetrated on Mussulman women on the further side of the Balkans—news put in circulation by the fomentors of the troubles themselves, with the ostensible object of spreading the revolt—had been spread on the other side of the Balkans, they would assuredly have produced the gravest consequences.

Although the local authorities, in face of these events, displayed great energy and courage, and strenuously endeavoured to narrow the circle of the insurrection, some subaltern employés, seeing in this rebellion an aggression specially directed against the Mussulmans, were naturally overcome by their distrust, and treated with a certain indulgence some Circassians and some individuals of the native population in arms who indulged in acts of pillage.

Thus, Circassians and Mussulmans in pursuit of the inhabitants of the village of Yeni-keuy, the centre of the revolt, took possession as spoils of war, of the cattle which

was abandoned. This bad example led the people on to other similar acts. The Circassians assembled from the two villages of Assaieh and Tcheruba, dependencies of the district of Sichtow, with some other individuals, carried off the cattle of the village Murad Bey, near Tirnova, the inhabitants of which had not yet taken part in the revolt, and had remained quiet.

These isolated acts soon took the character of pillage, and the culprits spread into one or two other villages, where they also carried off cattle. The Bulgarians, who through their revolt felt that they had sinned against the Government, dared not make any complaint. The villagers who had not revolted were, in fact, victims of spoliations of this kind. The panic spread also into the district of Servi, where, on my arrival, all the shops were shut.

It was only by means of advice and assurances that I could restore the inhabitants to confidence, and make them open their shops. At the same time I disbanded the auxiliary troops, and together with Fazli Pasha, whose head-quarters was then at Plona, I proceeded to the disarmament of the Circassians and of the native population. In addition, Fazli Pasha formed detachments of regular troops, whose presence contributed to put an end to these acts so culpable and regrettable on so many grounds.

The Government agents were at the same time charged to discover and return to their owners, or failing them, to their relations, the cattle belonging not only to the peaceful population, but also to the inhabitants of the insurgent villages, such as Yeni-keuy and other neighbouring places. In this way the cattle taken away were found, and returned to their owners.

The insurrection, which in the first instance broke out to the south of the Balkans, suddenly assumed great consistency.

In the Vilayet of the Danube this movement broke out later, and was soon suppressed. Very few of the Mussulmans and Christians lost their lives. The Mussulman losses consist of some children and some shepherds, killed by the Bulgarians in the neighbourhood of Yeni-keuy, and some persons killed in fighting.

Amongt the Bulgarians the individuals who shut themselves up and fortified themselves in the monastery of Diranowa, those who disembarked at Rahova from a steamboat, and some refugees from the fights of Yeni-keuy, were the only ones killed. The exaggerated statements communicated by the Director of the Commercial Agencies at Braila to the Kaïmakam of Matchin, and the unjustifiable agitation of this Kaïmakam, provoked the distrust of the Mussulmans towards the villages of Yeni-keuy and of Tcherna, dependencies of the district of Matchin. The populace, having begun to disarm the Bulgarians, the Christians of the neighbouring villages gave another interpretation to the act, and grave results would have followed had not a certain Mahmoud Yazidji, a notable of Matchin, gone to the village and succeeded, with the assistance of Elias Effendi, a farmer, in preventing all acts of hostility. These two persons are worthy of recompense.

In the other Cazas of Toultcha, and in the Sandjaks of Varna in general, no blameworthy action was committed, and no village revolted. The conduct of the Governor of Varna, of the Kaïmakam of Soulina, and of those of Kustendji and Baba-Dugh, is equally deserving of recompense.

This is, to sum up, the result of the mission confided to me in the Vilayet of the Danube.

July 2, 1876.

Inclosure 4 in No. 220.

Rapport présenté à la Sublime Porte par le Tribunal Extraordinaire institué à Philippopoli, pour juger les individus impliqués dans les événements qui se sont passés en Bulgarie.

(Traduction.)

L'INSURRECTION Bulgare qui avait éclaté dans le district de Philippopoli et dans le caza de Bazardjik a été promptement réprimée par les armées Impériales. Les insurgés avaient combiné leur plan et organisé leurs forces de telle sorte qu'ils avaient foi dans les conséquences et les éventualités probables de la rébellion. Heureusement, cette rébellion a été écrasée, dès son début; l'enquête a établi tous les projets coupables qu'elle avait en vue et qu'elle n'a pu exécuter. Il est prouvé que ces adversaires de la

nation et du pays avaient tout mis en œuvre pour organiser le soulèvement dans ses moindres détails.

Ces ennemis redoutables de l'existence de l'Empire, qui avaient entraîné les populations Bulgares dans une aventure aussi périlleuse, en dépit de tous les bienfaits dont celles-ci jouissaient sous le rapport du bien-être et de la prospérité, ont été si complétement déçus dans leurs espérances qu'ils ont essayé, en désespoir de cause, de masquer leurs actes, dont les Bulgares eux-mêmes ont été les premières victimes, tout en les déplorant profondément. Aussi, ces hommes criminels se sont-ils, dès lors, appliqués à égarer l'opinion publique à l'étranger en représentant, sous les couleurs les plus abominables, les événements qui se sont passés en Bulgarie. C'est pourquoi nous allons établir ici la vérité sur l'origine de l'insurrection et sur ses developpements ultérieurs.

Les Comités révolutionnaires formés en Moldo-Valachie et en Serbie ne cessaient depuis longtemps d'attiser le feu de la révolte parmi les Bulgares de la Roumélie et de faire, dans ce but, des sacrifices de toute nature. Ils avaient tenté plusieurs fois de provoquer un commencement d'exécution de leurs projets. Plusieurs tentatives sans succès avaient eu lieu naguère dans le vilayet du Danube et dans d'autres localités. Mais, il y a trois ans, sur l'avis de la police secrète, vingt-cinq individus furent arrêtés sous la prévention d'avoir participé au complot ourdi par un certain Ouzounoff, qui avait cherché à faire de la propagande révolutionnaire dans les villes et les villages Bulgares. Ces individus furent alors traduits devant la justice et condamnés à l'exil.

Les événements dont la ville d'Eski-Zaghra a été la théâtre, l'année passée, n'ont été que le prologue du drame sinistre, qui devait plus tard prendre de si larges proportions, grâce aux encouragements secrets qui étaient prodigués à l'œuvre de la rébellion.

En même temps, le mouvement insurrectionnel trouvait des adhérents tout prêts parmi les nombreux popes et maîtres d'école en Serbie et en Russie. Ce mouvement, préparé de si longue main, s'est déclaré tout-à-coup par des actes de violence et de cruauté que l'humanité et la civilisation réprouvent avec horreur. La dernière instruction est la triste preuve des excès que l'esprit de rébellion peut atteindre parmi ces populations primitives, alors qu'elles sont en proie aux excitations des ennemis venus de l'extérieur.

L'instruction poursuivie par le Tribunal *ad hoc*, formé à Philippopoli par ordre de la Sublime Porte, pour juger les insurgés arrêtés, ne laisse subsister aucun doute sur les moyens employés pour préparer le mouvement et sur les encouragements qui ont été prodigués pour troubler l'esprit des populations. C'est un point qui mérite d'être traité avec tous les développements qu'il comporte.

Nous avons déjà parlé du complot d'Ouzounoff et des événements d'Eski-Zaghra. L'idée insurrectionnelle, qui avait reçu cette première impulsion, gagnait tous les jours du terrain parmi les populations crédules et ignorantes que les promesses fallacieuses des émissaires venus de Moldo-Valachie et de Serbie, ainsi que les popes et les maîtres d'école, travaillaient sans relâche. Depuis quelque temps, des armes et des munitions étaient introduites clandestinement, et l'action devait bientôt éclater.

Certes, ce ne sont pas les instigations qui manquaient.

Deux ou trois mois avant le jour fixé pour le soulèvement, les comités avaient expédié plusieurs émissaires en Roumélie. Ghorgui Nikofski, Petri Vancoff et Ghorgui Economoff étaient désignés pour le district de Philippopoli. Arrivés dans le pays, ces individus avaient choisi, comme foyers insurrectionnels, les villages de Avrat-Alan, Persedam et Perouchtindja, dans le district de Philippopoli, et les villages d'Otlouk-keuy, Bratchkova et Batak, dans le caza de Bazardjik. Tous ces villages sont situés le long des Balkans et peuplés exclusivement de Bulgares. Ces émissaires trouvaient là des populations déjà préparées à la révolte et qui se sont ralliées, sans difficulté, au mot d'ordre.

Après avoir formé un comité central, chargé de diriger le mouvement, ces agents se sont rendus successivement dans les autres villages Bulgares, où ils ont institué des sous-comités. Ils leur ont communiqué le programme revêtu du sceau du comité central, qui indiquait le rôle de chacun, et représentait l'insurrection comme une entreprise qui revêtissait le caractère sacré. Ce programme ne visait à rien moins qu'à une révolution ayant pour but l'indépendance de la Bulgarie, sous un Gouvernement nouveau. Les insurgés avaient pour instruction de massacrer la population Musulmane, d'incendier les villes et les villages, et après avoir jeté ainsi la terreur dans l'esprit des Musulmans, d'opposer une résistance énergique aux troupes expédiées

contre eux. Il leur était prescrit de suivre strictement les ordres des agents insurrectionnels. On leur assurait que des armes et des munitions, ainsi que des renforts ne tarderaient pas à leur parvenir de la Serbie et d'autres pays encore ; on les invitait enfin à s'unir avec les légions qu'on disait prêtes à marcher à leurs secours, et à faire tous leurs efforts pour préparer l'insurrection et la mettre en œuvre jusqu'à l'arrivée de ces secours.

C'est ainsi que l'on était parvenu à étendre les ramifications du mouvement et à convaincre les populations. Les popes faisaient des prédications incendiaires, priaient pour le succès des armes de la rébellion et exhortaient les paysans à ne reculer devant aucun sacrifice pour une régénération nationale.

Les adhérents de la révolte étaient assermentés, et il leur était dit que des caisses d'or seraient expédiées de Russie pour les indemniser de l'incendie de leurs maisons, de la perte de leurs bestiaux et de leurs biens. C'est au moyen de ces promesses que les chefs sont arrivés à connaître le nombre des combattants et qu'ils se sont fait délivrer des tableaux statistiques indiquant le chiffre des habitants et des maisons de chaque village. Après les efforts de toute sorte tentés pour préparer et organiser la rébellion, voici dans quelles circonstances elle s'est produite.

Il avait été décidé, ainsi qu'il ressort des publications faites et des résolutions adoptées par les organisateurs du mouvement, que l'insurrection éclaterait le 1er Mai, à une heure désignée et sur tous les points à la fois ; mais l'enquête préliminaire faite a démontré depuis que le mouvement éclata quelques jours avant la date fixée, c'est-à-dire le 20 Avril.

Quant aux mesures prises par les autorités, il résulte également de l'enquête que, dans la quinzaine qui a précédé le commencement des hostilités, les instigateurs du mouvement, dans le but évident de jeter les dernières bases de la rébellion et de procéder à son organisation finale, avaient tenu un conseil présidé par les chefs et composé de plus de 300 membres, parmi lesquels se trouvaient des prêtres, des maîtres d'école, des hommes lettrés ou sachant lire et écrire, qui étaient venus des villes et des villages et qui depuis prirent une part active à l'insurrection.

Ce conseil fut tenu à Matchka-Déressi, dans le voisinage d'Otlouk-keuy, et les résolutions qui furent adoptées furent consignées dans un acte ou procès-verbal rédigé séance tenante et contenant 36 articles ou propositions indiquant, d'une part, le programme à suivre, et contenant, d'autre part, les engagements pris des conjurés.

Cet acte, qui est revêtu de la signature des Chefs, et dont la traduction est annexée à ce Rapport, frappe l'attention par le langage incendiaire et l'esprit subversif qui se dégage de chaque expresssion. On constate ce même esprit dans des documents analogues trouvés depuis et que l'on est occupé à traduire, ainsi que dans des livres, des brochures, et d'autres imprimés de cette nature.

A ce Conseil assistait le nommé Tetko, rapporteur fidèle, qui pour se soustraire aux dangers d'une situation périlleuse, avait signé de sa main l'acte précité, mais qui se hâta, une fois le Conseil terminé, d'accourir à Bazardjik, où il rapporta les choses telles qu'elles s'étaient passées. L'autorité, prévenue par cet homme, s'empressa d'envoyer à Otlouk-keuy l'officier de police Ahmed Agha, accompagné de quelques hommes, et ordonna en même temps à Nedjib Agha, autre officier de gendarmerie, de se rendre à Avrat Alan. Ces deux officiers étaient chargés de s'enquérir minutieusement de ce qui se passait dans ces localités et de surveiller les faits et gestes des habitants.

Arrivé à Avrat Alan, Nedjib Agha ne tarda pas à s'apercevoir des préparatifs qui s'y faisaient et des dispositions manifestes de la population de troubler l'ordre et la paix. Il fit aussitôt arrêter et emprisonner les nommés Dochtessaly Téodor et Thosson Yorghi ; mais à peine avait-il commencé leur interrogatoire, que leurs complices, voyant que leurs desseins avaient été divulgués aux autorités et que celles-ci ne tarderaient pas à prendre des mesures pour comprimer le mouvement et l'empêcher d'éclater, jugeant d'ailleurs que tout ajournement était devenu impossible, se démasquèrent complétement en arborant les premiers le drapeau de la rébellion.

On vit alors les révoltés se grouper autour de leur Chef le nommé Théodore Kapakhof, et se rendre en armes auprès des autorités exigeant de Nedjib Agha l'élargissement immédiat des deux individus qu'il avait arrêtés, et, tandis que quelques-uns d'entr'eux attaquaient les hommes de Nedjib Agha, celui-ci se fraya bravement un chemin à travers cette foule ameutée et parvint à se sauver.

Les révoltés attaquèrent aussitôt le Mudir, qu'ils massacrèrent avec quelques zaptiés.

Ces événements douloureux se passaient le 20 Avril, jour qui a marqué le commencement de l'insurrection en Bulgarie.

Les meneurs d'Otlouk-keuy, de leur côté, étaient aussitôt informés par leurs espions de la mission d'Ahmed Agha et ne tardaient pas à être instruits des faits dont Avrat-Alan a été le théâtre.

Tout ce qui venait de se passer et les renseignements fournis par Tetko ne laissaient plus subsister aucun doute sur les projets des rebelles; les autorités du district donnèrent avis de ces faits à celles du vilayet qui, entr'autres dispositions, avaient dirigé en toute hâte sur Bazardjik deux escouades de gendarmes à cheval venant du côté de Zaghra, ainsi qu'un petit détachement d'infanterie, pris parmi les Rédifs préposés à la garde du dépôt de Philoppopoli.

Les habitants d'Otlouk-keuy comprirent alors que le Gouvernement était, en effet, instruit de leur complot et qu'il prenait déjà des mesures énergiques à leur égard; ils se soulevèrent en masse et se livrèrent au massacre du remplaçant du Mudir qui était absent, de quelques zaptiés, du fermier Chérif Effendi, de Philippopoli, et de tous les Musulmans qui leur tombèrent sous la main.

C'est ainsi que l'insurrection éclata le même jour sur deux points différents et que les Chefs rebelles de six autres localités insurgées purent, à raison des facilités qu'offre la topographie des lieux, se réunir la nuit suivante et parcourir en personne les campagnes avoisinantes pour soulever la population, en leur annonçant de vive voix ou par des messagers, les faits qui s'étaient produits et en les appelant aux armes.

L'insurrection se propagea, dès lors, comme un incendie et les villageois, d'ordinaire si indifférents et si paisibles, abandonnaient leurs maisons et leurs foyers et accouraient, en armes et pourvus de munitions, à l'appel des chefs de l'insurrection.

Ils marchaient par groupes et se dirigeaient vers les endroits qui leur avaient été désignés comme point de ralliement.

Tous ces faits ressortent clairement des dépositions et des aveux que les détenus ont faits, et qui se trouvent consignés dans leurs interrogatoires.

Pour ce qui est des événements douloureux qui se sont passés sur le théâtre de la révolte, les rebelles des campagnes, réunis, ainsi qu'il est dit plus haut, dans les six différents centres de l'insurrection, à savoir: les villages d'Avrat-Alan, de Perasudum-Derbend, de Pruchtendja, d'Otlouk-keuy, de Bratchkova et de Batak élevèrent, en vue de se défendre contre les attaques éventuelles des troupes Impériales, des redoutes et des barricades, et les firent garder par des factionnaires. Ils comptaient s'y réfugier dans le cas où il seraient serrés de près, avant l'arrivée des forces qui viendraient à leur secours de la Serbie et d'autre part. Ils se mirent à traduire en faits les instructions qu'ils avaient reçues itérativement. D'abord, une bande d'insurgés, recrutée à Kloura (Bazardjik) et dans les villages voisins, détruisit deux ou trois grands ponts sur la chaussée qui conduit à Sofia et une grande partie des fils télégraphiques. Une autre bande, formée dans les environs de Bellova, attaqua la station du chemin de fer de Bellova, mit le feu à la gare et la brûla, ainsi que quelques gardes Musulmans et deux gendarmes. Elle détruisit également un grand pont sur le chemin de fer et marqua par ces dévastations barbares ses débuts dans le mouvement.

Du côté d'Avrat-Alan, les insurgés s'emparèrent du Mudir, de cinq gendarmes et ensuite du Secrétaire du Mudir, du préposé de la Douane, des tziganes Musulmans qui se trouvaient dans ces parages et des paysans Musulmans, au nombre d'environ une centaine. Il les conduisirent par bandes au lieu du supplice et les égorgèrent, un à un, avec les derniers raffinements de la cruauté. Ils se distribuèrent entr'eux les morceaux mutilés de ces victimes et se livrèrent à des démonstrations de joie à Bratchkova. Parmi ceux qui tombèrent sous les coups de ces effrénés, les uns furent passés par les armes, les autre tués à coups de couteau et quelques-uns furent d'abord mutilés d'une façon horrible, puis embrochés et rôtis. Ils procédèrent de la même manière avec les femmes.

Ils les exposèrent d'abord aux yeux des rebelles, dépourvues de leurs vêtements et les livrèrent ensuite à la mort en leur faisant subir des tortures tellement avilissantes que l'imagination humaine se refuse à les croire. Ils se livrèrent encore à différents crimes, les uns plus odieux que les autres, particulièrement à Otlouk-keuy comme ailleurs, pendant l'exaltation du premier moment. Les insurgés des villages de Yéni-keuy, de Zindjirli et de Kloura, durant leur marche sur ces points de ralliement, ont commis les dernières atrocités. Ils ont tué et mis en pièces tout ce qu'ils ont rencontré d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants Musulmans. Ce sont là des faits constatés par les aveux mêmes des auteurs de ces cruautés.

Nous allons maintenant passer en revue la nature des mesures que les autorités Impériales ont été contraintes d'adopter en présence de ces faits criminels.

Le Gouvernement s'est d'abord parfaitement rendu compte du but que pour-

suivaient les insurgés en se livrant à ces actes de violence. On verra par les instructions consignées dans le programme insurrectionnel, dont ci-jointe la copie en traduction, comment l'incendie devait être allumé dans un grand nombre de villes et de bourgs, à commencer par Philippopoli et Bazardjik, afin de donner partout ainsi le signal de la révolte et de profiter de la confusion pour procéder à une attaque générale.

Ce plan avait déjà reçu un commencement d'exécution à Philippopoli. En effet, tandis que les nouvelles du soulèvement, de la concentration des rebelles sur différents points et des violences auxquelles ils se livraient aux portes mêmes des villes parvenaient aux habitants paisibles et que ceux-ci s'occupaient de la défense à organiser pour sauver leurs foyers, leurs biens et leur vie, tout-à-coup, vers une heure de la nuit, le feu se déclare simultanément dans les ateliers du Sieur Dimitri, fabricant Bulgare de bougies, et du cordonnier Coutcho, tous les deux établis dans le centre même de la ville de Philippopoli.

Il a été bien constaté que cet incendie avait été allumé à dessein, tant par l'interrogatoire auquel a été soumis le dit Dimitri que par la conduite et la fin tragique du cordonnier Coutcho. Celui-ci s'était refugié parmi les insurgés de Prouchtentza qui ont résisté pendant quelques jours aux troupes Impériales, mais, voyant que tout moyen d'échapper à la juste punition qu'il méritait devenait impossible, il a égorgé sans miséricorde sa femme et ses enfants en bas âge, et il s'est donné ensuite la mort ; les insurgés eux-mêmes ont confirmé ces détails abominables. Quant au double incendie allumé, il a été promptement maîtrisé par les efforts énergiques des autorités locales. Néanmoins, d'autres tentatives du même genre ont été faites dans les villages Musulmans et non-Musulmans de la campagne de Philippopoli, d'où on pouvait les apercevoir.

D'autre part, comme ces parages se trouvaient, à ce moment, dépourvues d'une force armée suffisante pour obliger les rebelles à battre en retraite et pour défendre les hameaux environnants, et que, ainsi qu'il arrive toujours, l'imagination populaire, après avoir donné carrière aux rumeurs les plus exagérées, avait fini par porter le chiffre des insurgés à 30,000 ou 40,000, et les lueurs de l'incendie venant à leur tour signaler l'existence des conjurés au sein même de la ville, la terreur et l'exaspération de la population ne connurent plus de bornes.

La nuit pendant laquelle éclataient ces incendies, on apprenait que les paysans des villages Bulgares des circonscriptions voisines de Philippopoli s'étaient avancés en grandes masses jusqu'à une lieue de distance de la ville ; qu'à Bazardjik, aux environs du village de Kloura, à trois heures de cette localité, un rassemblement de révoltés, composé de 5,000 hommes, après avoir mis à mort tous les tziganes Musulmans qui s'y trouvaient, se dirigeait vers Bazardjik dans le but de se vouer au massacre général des Musulmans. Ces nouvelles qui se succédaient sans relâche, imposèrent aux autorités la nécessité absolue de prendre des mesures promptes et énergiques ; ordre fut donné en conséquence d'armer, sans plus de retard, toute la population Musulmane valide qui se trouvait sur les deux points menacés et qui, avec le concours des gendarmes disponibles, devait former des détachements de milice improvisée, auxquels serait confiée la défense du pays. Ces dispositions, dictées par la prudence et la nécessité, ont eu immédiatement leur effet. Les séditieux, qui s'apprêtaient à attaquer les deux villes, renoncèrent à leur projet, aussitôt qu'ils eurent connaissance des mesures de défense qui avaient été prises, et ils rebroussèrent chemin vers leur point de départ, non sans commettre partout sur leur passage toute sorte d'excès et de crimes.

Des travaux pour la défense de ces deux villes furent aussitôt entrepris, dans la mesure du possible ; mais les chefs insurgés, ayant appris que l'autorité ne disposait pas de troupes suffisantes pour les attaquer à son tour et les disperser, résolurent de mettre le feu aux maisons des Musulmans qui se trouvaient dans les villages environnants et les rebelles incendièrent ainsi une partie d'Islitzé, dépendant de Bazardjik et habité par des populations mixtes. Les Musulmans de ce bourg se refugièrent aussitôt avec leurs familles dans la mosquée, où ils furent cernés par les insurgés. Les rebelles d'Otlouk-keuy et d'Avrat-Alan qui apprirent ce fait, accoururent, et, pendant cinq jours, ils assaillirent la mosquée qui ne résista à leurs attaques que grâce à la solidité de sa construction. Une dizaine de Musulmans avaient déjà succombé et les autres continuaient à se défendre, lorsque le cinquième jour les Musulmans de Dorghoutli et de Ghraldiné vinrent à leur secours et attaquèrent les insurgés. Durant le combat, les assiégés parvinrent à s'échapper et à s'enfuir. Il en fut de même des villages de Borouk, dépendant de Bazardjik, et de Tchanakdjilar, de la circonscription de Philippopoli, ainsi que de plusieurs autres encore dont les

habitants Musulmans, après avoir été attaqués et cernés par les insurgés, ont subi des pertes considérables.

Ainsi qu'il a été dit plus haut, la répression immédiate des actes de barbarie et de violence commis avait été jugée plus que nécessaire, attendu que si l'insurrection avait duré encore quelques jours, elle aurait pris des proportions considérables et se serait étendue de tous côtés, au point que l'on n'aurait pu s'en rendre maître, et qu'elle aurait amené, nul n'en doute, une grande et irréparable calamité.

Sur les ordres donnés par son Altesse le Grand Vézir, et en attendant l'arrivée des troupes régulières, des corps de volontaires en nombre suffisant furent formés dans le district, et placés sur différents points pour veiller à la sécurité publique. Lorsque quelques bataillons de ligne furent envoyés, ces corps de volontaires se réunirent à ces troupes et prirent l'offensive.

Au premier moment, les insurgés se mirent en mesure de se défendre et ouvrirent le feu sur nos troupes avec leurs canons de bois, mais reconnaissant bientôt qu'ils ne pourraient pas résister aux attaques vigoureuses des troupes Impériales, qui tirèrent quelques coups de canon du côté des villages de Bratchkova et d'Avrat-Allan, ils demandèrent à faire leur soumission, qui fut aussitôt acceptée par les Commandants. Ces insurgés n'ont pas eu un seul mort et n'ont eu à souffrir d'aucun mauvais traitement de la part des troupes.

Il en est d'autres qui n'ont point voulu se rendre aux propositions réitérées de soumission qui leur furent faites par nos Commandants et qui persistèrent à lutter contre les troupes pendant plusieurs jours; mais ceux-là aussi demandèrent à mettre bas les armes, lorsque finalement l'armée Impériale se prépara à les attaquer plus vigoureusement.

Leurs soumission fut acceptée, et il ne leur fut fait aucun mal, malgré la punition que leurs atrocités avait méritée.

Après avoir opéré l'arrestation des assassins, des incendiaires, et des mauvais sujets qui se trouvaient parmi eux et qu'on dirigea vers le chef-lieu pour y être emprisonnés, les troupes Impériales prirent sous leur protection les enfants et les familles de ces derniers ainsi que les autres insurgés qui s'étaient soumis. On établit immédiatement des baraques, dans ceux de leurs villages qui avaient été détruits, pour leur donner un abri; on leur distribua des rations et on pourvut à tous leurs besoins.

En ce moment même, et d'après les ordres du Grand Vézir, on leur fait des avances d'argent qui diffèrent de 5,000 à 10,000 piastres et qui sont prélevées sur les caisses d'épargne.

Les autorités ayant reçu avis que les insurgés du village de Prestinitza, un des centres révolutionnaires de Philippopoli, avaient saisi trois Musulmans (Pomaks) qui s'étaient rendus dans ce village pour acheter du pain et les avaient mutilés d'une façon barbare, et qu'ils se préparaient à assaillir la population Musulmane du village voisin Ostona, envoyèrent sur les lieux Hadji Mehemed et Hadji Raschid Effendis, notables de Philippopoli, et Todoraki Agha, membre Bulgare de la Cour d'Appel, pour les exhorter et les engager, dans leur propre intérêt, à se désister de leurs coupables desseins et à rentrer dans la voie de l'obéissance. Ces délégués ont mandé quelques-uns des principaux habitants du dit village et ils s'efforcèrent de leur faire entendre la voix de la raison; en même temps ils transmirent aux insurgés des avis pressants pour les détourner de leur projet. Toutes ces démarches restèrent sans succès. Les rebelles persistant dans leurs intentions hostiles, des troupes et des volontaires furent envoyés contre eux sous les ordres du Général de Brigade Réchid Pacha. A l'arrivée de ces troupes, les insurgés les accueillirent par des décharges répétées de mousqueterie qui partaient d'abord de leurs barricades, et plus tard de meurtrières qu'ils avaient pratiquées dans les murs de leur église où ils s'étaient retranchés. Vingt-quatre volontaires et soldats sont tombés victimes de cette agression. Les insurgés, ayant enfin repoussé toutes les sommations d'avoir à se rendre dans l'espace de trois jours, malgré toutes les garanties qui leur étaient accordées, une répression par les armes étaient devenue inévitable. De 2,000 insurgés, indigènes et étrangers, qui s'étaient retranchés dans cette église, 300 environ ont péri; le reste, voyant que toute résistance était devenue impossible, a demandé grâce. Réchid Pacha les accueillit avec bonté, et après avoir retenu les assassins et les instigateurs, il renvoya les autres dans leurs foyers.

Il est à remarquer que, la plupart de ces 300 victimes sont tombées dans des circonstances que l'imagination humaine a peine à comprendre. Quelques-uns se sont donné la mort, après avoir préalablement tué leurs femmes et leurs enfants. D'autres se sont entretués en s'accusant réciproquement d'avoir été la cause de tout ce mal. Bien que ces insurgés eussent eu l'intention de massacrer toute la population Musulmane du village d'Ostona, néanmoins lors de la répression, 430 Bulgares se

réfugièrent dans ce même village avec leurs enfants et furent généreusement accueillis pendant cinq jours par ceux qu'ils avaient résolu de faire périr sous leurs coups. Ils furent nourris et protégés contre toute attaque, et après avoir été traités d'après les préceptes sacrés de la religion Musulmane, ils furent remis sains et saufs entre les mains du commandant de la troupe.

Cette conduite humaine et généreuse dont il n'a été pourtant fait aucune mention par les narrateurs fantaisistes de tous ces tristes épisodes, est restée gravée dans la mémoire et la reconnaissance des Bulgares. L'opinion publique, ayant toujours une propension à exagérer le nombre des Musulmans qui ont été victimes des insurgés, comme celui des Chrétiens qui sont tombés sous le coup de la répression ou de la vengeance, et que d'ailleurs plus d'un faux rapport a circulé sur la façon avec laquelle les villages ont été incendiés, nous croyons de notre devoir de placer ici les faits sous leur véritable jour, en donnant un exposé succinct des informations obtenues à la suite de l'enquête à laquelle nous nous sommes livrés à ce sujet.

Il est constaté, d'une manière positive, que les insurgés qui se trouvaient réunis dans les centres indiqués, ou qui étaient disséminés dans d'autres localités, en abandonnant leurs villages, qu'ils ont eux-mêmes incendiés, ont massacré en tout 530 Musulmans. Le nombre des Bulgares morts, dans les combats contre les troupes Impériales et les volontaires, s'élève, d'après le tableau existant, à 1,836 individus. Ainsi, dans le combat avec les insurgés de Prestinitza, un des plus sérieux qui aient été livrés, les insurgés après une résistance de trois jours n'ont eu que 303 morts, dont plusieurs, comme nous l'avons dit, se sont suicidés après avoir tué leurs femmes et leurs enfants, et d'autres se sont entretués. Ces chiffres sont établis par une liste authentique et nominative qui a été présentée par les habitants eux-mêmes de ce village.

Quant à l'incendie des villages insurgés, d'après les ordres données par les instigateurs du mouvement, chaque insurgé en se rendant avec tous ses biens et sa famille à l'endroit désigné pour la réunion des rebelles, était tenu d'évacuer entièrement sa demeure et d'y mettre le feu de sa propre main. Les insurgés de plusieurs villages ont obéi à ces ordres; mais il est, en outre, bien constaté, de l'aveu même des prisonniers, que lorsque quelques Bulgares abandonnaient leurs foyers sans y mettre le feu les chefs insurgés, tels que Todor Vilesko, natif d'Avrat-Alan, Kristo et Yorghui, fils de Vassil, épicier de Philippopoli, et d'autres encore qui parcouraient la campagne pour exciter la population à la révolte, suppléaient eux-mêmes à cette besogne. Il n'y a que trois villages qui aient brulé à la suite d'un combat.

Quarante-neuf villages Musulmans et Chrétiens, contenant 11,453 maisons, ont été incendiés par les insurgés de la manière que nous avons dite. Parmi ces villages, sept sont exclusivement Musulmans, cinq mixtes, et trente-sept exclusivement Chrétiens. Le nombre des maisons incendiées dans ces villages s'élève à 6,358; les autres 5,095 maisons ont été épargnées par les flammes.

Un fait curieux à constater, c'est, qu'au moment où les habitants Chrétiens du village mixte de Sotir, dépendant du Sandjak de Philippopoli, abandonnaient leurs foyers pour se diriger vers les Balkans et se joindre aux insurgés, des Musulmans qui s'étaient aperçus que le feu avait éclaté dans une maison Chrétienne, se sont immédiatement rendus maîtres de l'incendie et ont pris soin des maisons et des petits objets abandonnés par les fuyards.

Lorsque ces derniers après leur soumission sont rentrés dans leurs foyers, tous ces objets leur ont été intégralement restitués. Les expressions de reconnaissance des Bulgares témoignent de cette conduite digne et honnête de leurs compatriotes Musulmans.

Avant les événements que nous venons de raconter, les Bulgares vivaient depuis des siècles en bonne harmonie avec leurs compatriotes Musulmans, sous l'égide des lois et la protection paternelle du pouvoir. Il a fallu que l'esprit malfaisant des ambitieux criminels, tels que certains prêtres et maîtres d'école, agents révolutionnaires de l'étranger, vint corrompre la simplicité et la bonté native de ces populations dociles, et les pousser à des actes de cruauté dont elles n'eussent jamais été capables sans les instigations sauvages de ces ennemis de la société.

Toutes les instigations qui ont été faites prouvent que le mouvement insurrectionnel devait éclater le 1er Mai, et que ce mouvement devait s'étendre jusqu'à Andrinople, à Sofia et dans le vilayet du Danube.

Les mesures préventives et énergiques que les autorités ont prises ont seules déjoué les calculs des conspirateurs en précipitant l'action, ce qui a désorganisé leur plan, et en circonscrivant le mouvement dans les limites du sandjak de Philippopoli et de Tatar-Bazardjik.

Les données qui précèdent se rapportent à l'origine de la sédition et montrent de quelle manière et par quels moyens ont pu s'exercer les instigations et les encouragements apparents pour amener cet état de choses. Néanmoins, l'examen et le rapport, d'après les informations qui ont pu être recueillies, des véritables causes tant morales que matérielles qui ont donné le jour à ce mouvement nous paraissent offrir un plus grand intérêt.

En effet, les renseignements que nous possédons actuellement proviennent en grande partie des explications fournies jusqu'à un certain point par quelques-uns des affiliés, lors de leur interrogatoire. Il est regrettable cependant que les trois principaux individus qui avaient été délégués, comme chefs et organisateurs du mouvement dans cette contrée aient pu, au moment de la défaite des leurs, s'échapper d'Otlouk-keuy. De ces trois individus, le premier Yorghi Nokofolski, a été découvert ensuite par des agents lancés aux trousses des fugitifs, dans les montagnes de Sofia où il faisait de l'espionnage ; il y a été tué en voulant se défendre. Les deux autres, Petri Vankoff et Yorghi Iconomoff, qui avaient à leur tour réussi à prendre la fuite, ont dans la suite, d'après les nouvelles qui nous sont parvenues, trouvé la mort en se noyant aux environs de Zichtova. De même, le nommé Thodori Kapesco, l'un des principaux chefs des insurgés d'Avrat-Alan, connu déjà depuis l'année passée par un long écrit dans lequel il développait ses principes subversifs, et auteur d'une autre épître séditieuse qui, tombée heureusement entre nos mains, mérite d'être signalée et dont nous joignons ici une traduction, avait été arrêté sur la montagne de Toriana près de Lofdja et ensuite amené à Tirnova. De là, sur la demande des autorités de Philippopoli, il fut dirigé vers cette ville. Arrivé à Gabrova, il fut déposé par négligence dans une pièce occupée par les gendarmes. Là, profitant d'un moment favorable, il s'empara d'une arme suspendue au mur et mit fin à ses jours.

Outre ceux-là, il y a aussi les deux fils de l'épicier Vassil de Philippopoli, dont l'un a été tué également dans les montagnes de Tourain en voulant opposer de la résistance aux agents de l'autorité chargés de l'arrêter et le second se trouve en fuite depuis longtemps. Cette disparition successive des principaux promoteurs de la révolte, de ceux-là mêmes qui s'étaient le plus compromis par leurs manœuvres occultes, a malheureusement restreint de beaucoup l'ensemble des renseignements que nous pouvions recueillir sur les mobiles mystérieux de ce soulèvement. Néanmoins, les livres, les brochures et autres écrits séditieux qui ont pu être rassemblés peuvent encore jeter un jour assez complet sur cette affaire et sont suffisants pour nous édifier sur ses points essentiels. Outre ceux de ces documents dont les traductions se trouvent jointes à ce Rapport, il y en a encore qui sont livrés à la traduction et qui doivent être présentés ultérieurement. Le plus remarquable de tous et celui qui attire le plus l'attention par la violence du langage et par l'esprit d'excitation à la révolte qui se retrouve dans chacune de ces pages, c'est incontestablement une brochure imprimée en caractères Russes à Moscou, l'année 1867, intitulée " Centres de Délibération." Ce factum n'ayant pu être traduit ici convenablement, nous nous contentons d'en citer en abrégé les principaux passages.

Les pages 372 et 373 de la brochure en question contiennent les faits et les actes suivants du Comité constitué sous la présidence du Prince Vladimir Alexandrovitch :

1. Le Comité aura des représentants dans chacune des succursales qu'il doit établir à l'Est de l'Empire Ottoman, en Autriche et en d'autres pays.

2. Les Représentants du Levant et de l'Autriche auront à examiner l'état passé et actuel de la nation Slave ; à rechercher les moyens de son développement en instruction, en richesse et en force, et à travailler à faire valoir tant la politique appuyée par le Président et la Russie que les buts du panslavisme, sous prétexte d'insurrection.

A la page 371, il est dit qu'un certain nombre de Bulgares instruits et érudits prennent part à ces délibérations et à ces projets.

Dans un passage de la page 373, il est encore dit qu'un poême a été composé, sous l'inspiration du fameux Bulgare Zindjikoff, pour solliciter le secours et la protection de la Russie dans le cas d'un prochain soulèvement qui aurait pour but d'arracher la nation Bulgare des griffes des Turcs sanguinaires, cruels et barbares, et de chasser ces derniers. Dans un refrain intitulé " Bulgare Zdiravitckasse " il est fait appel à l'union des Slaves, des Serbes, des Monténégrins, des Croates, des Tchèques, des Slovaques, des Bosniaques, et des Herzégoviniens.

Enfin, les conclusions de cette brochure sont l'union des Bulgares avec toutes les autres nations Slaves ; la création d'un Royaume Bulgare, s'etendant depuis le Vardar jusqu'au Danube. Des efforts collectifs et constants seront employés pour la réalisa-

tion de ce but ; on doit, en outre, travailler à obtenir la prépondérance des Slaves sur les autres nations et leur indépendance, et à subjuguer et à reduire à l'esclavage les autres nations. Cette brochure contient également des vœux pour la prospérité de la ville de Moscou, considérée la mère sainte des Bulgares, et pour le bonheur de la nation Russe qui sauvera la nation Slave.

Vu l'importance du mouvement insurrectionnel de cette contrée, qui a entièrement subi l'influence de toutes ces publications, les événements d'Islimia, de Tirnova, et de Sofia, ayant simultanément éclaté vers le commencement du mois de Mai, il est aisé, après les faits ci-dessus mentionnés, de comprendre la source où l'insurrection a puisé son origine.

(Signé) HALIL SIDKI.
MEHMED RAGUIB,
THODORAKI,
HATCHADOUR,
} *Membres du Tribunal Extraordinaire.*
NOURI,
YORGUI CLITI,
HADJI MICHON,
} *Membres de la Commission d'Enquête.*

(Signé) GARABET, *Secrétaire.*
YAKOVAKI, *Traducteur.*

Le Conseil d'Administration a pris connaissance du rapport ci-dessus et le déclare en tous points conforme à la vérité des faits qui ont été relevés.

Le 13 *Redjeb,* 1299 (22 *Juillet,* 1292).

(Signé) ABDUL HAMID, *Gouverneur de Philippopoli.*
EL SEID MEHMED TAHIB, *Naib.*
EL SAID MAHSOULI, *Membre.*
NÉOPHITOS, *Métropolitain de Philippopoli.*
SULEIMAN SADI, *Contrôleur.*
NOUMAN NAIM, *Secrétaire.*
KÉVORK, *Représentant du Chef Spirituel de la Nation Arménienne.*
MUSTAPHA ASSIM.
MAHMOUD.
MEHMED NOURI.
YORGUI CASSARA.

Instructions élaborées et arrêtées dans une réunion d'insurgés, tenue à Otlouk-Keuy, sous la Présidence du Voïvode Nikowski et trouvées sur ce dernier, après sa mort. Ces instructions ont trait à la conduite à tenir pendant l'insurrection.

1. *D. Les Commissaires:* Consentez-vous tous à lever l'étendard de la révolte le 1er Mai ?—*R.* Oui, seulement on doit nous en donner avis préalable dès le 25 Avril.

2. *D.* Faut-il incendier Andrinople, Philippopoli, et Bazardjik ?—*R. La Commission:* Oui.

3. *D.* Faut-il détruire les voies ferrées et les fils télégraphiques ?—*R.* Oui, il faudra les détruire.

4. *D.* Faut-il détruire Carlova, Isladi, et Ihtiman ?—*R.* Oui.

5. *D.* Faut-il, oui ou non, incendier les villages ?—*R.* Oui.

6. *D.* Faudra-t-il brûler tous les villages en général ?—*R.* Non pas tous les villages.

7. *D.* Quels sont les villages qu'il faudra spécialement brûler ?—*R.* Tout village dont l'existence peut nuire à la cause de l'insurrection doit être absolument détruit.

8. *D.* Quelle conduite faudra-t-il tenir à l'égard des Bulgares qui ne se soulèveront pas le jour convenu ?—*R.* Il faudra les y forcer par tous les moyens.

9. *D.* Comment faut-il agir envers les villages mixtes ? doit-on les soulever ou les abandonner à la merci des Musulmans ?—*R.* Des bandes d'insurgés, organisées dans les villages exclusivement Bulgares et avoisinant les villages mixtes, devront se rendre dans ces dernières localités pour délivrer les Bulgares des mains des Turcs et les ramener au point de ralliement indiqué.

10. *D.* Quelle conduite faudra-t-il tenir à l'égard des Musulmans des villages mixtes qui s'opposeraient à nos desseins?—*R.* Les massacrer, piller leurs biens et incendier leurs habitations.

11. *D.* Que faut-il faire de la population des villages Musulmans?—*R.* Les insurgés doivent, sans perte de temps, les assaillir et les obliger, par le feu et le fer, à se soumettre.

12. *D.* Comment faudra-t-il traiter les Musulmans qui auront fait leur soumission?—*R.* Il faut saisir leurs armes, leurs munitions, leurs biens transportables contre un "Ilm-ou haber" (récépissé) délivré par les chefs des insurgés. Ces biens devront être déposés dans les caisses Bulgares; on ne devra en aucun cas réquisitionner la population soumise.

13. *D.* Quelle conduite faudra-t-il tenir à l'égard des Turcs soumis?—*R.* On doit les confier à nos agents qui les conduiront au siège de l'insurrection. De là, ils seront dirigés, avec leurs familles et leurs vieillards vers les endroits qui servent actuellement de refuge à nos propres familles; ils devront vivre là en frères. Il est de notre devoir de veiller à leur bonheur, à leur vie et à leur religion, au même titre qu'à l'honneur et à la vie des nôtres. Les jeunes gens seront placés sous la surveillance de nos agents.

14. *D.* Que faut-il faire des maisons appartenant aux Musulmans soumis?—*R.* Il faut se conformer pour cela à ce qui a été dit dans l'Article 7.

15. *D.* Quels sont les bourgs qu'il faudra brûler? faudra-t-il agir en vertu de l'Article 2?—*R.* Il faudra choisir le mode qui sera choisi le plus convenable et brûler les bourgs si la position topographique et l'attitude de la population le rendent nécessaire.

16. *D.* Que faut-il faire à l'égard des Bulgares habitant les bourgs?—*R.* Il faudra les protéger.

17. *D.* Après avoir brûlé Philippopoli, que faudra-t-il faire pour en sauver les habitants Bulgares?—*R.* On leur viendra en aide de deux côtés. Il faut les réunir et les envoyer ailleurs avec toute la force dont on pourra disposer.

18. *D.* Que faut-il faire d'Andrinople?—*R. Les Commissaires:* Comme nous n'avons pas d'agents dans cette ville, nous ne pouvons prendre aucune décision à cet égard.

19. *D.* Après avoir brûlé Bazardjik, comment faudra-t-il faire pour sauver les populations Bulgares de cette ville?—*R.* Il faut leur renvoyer des renforts pour les protéger.

20. *D.* Comment doit-on les protéger et d'où des secours peuvent-ils leur être fournis du dehors?—*R.* Il est de notre devoir de rassembler autant de renforts qu'il sera possible des villages environnants, et de joindre ces renforts à la division d'Otlouk-keuy, placée sous le commandement de Benkofski, qui doit procéder à l'attaque. Quarante incendies doivent précéder l'entrée des insurgés dans le bourg; la population est donc tenue de mettre le feu partout. Avant d'entrer dans le bourg, celui d'entre les chefs Commissaires que le commandant supérieur appellera doit se rendre au bourg; les habitants eux-mêmes sont tenus de s'y rendre en même temps. Vingt individus ont été désignés par l'Assemblée Générale pour incendier Philippopolis, et dix pour Andrinople. Sokoloff, Délégué de Bazardjik, est chargé d'expédier les trente individus ci-dessus mentionnés aux localités désignées; aucune nouvelle décision ne sera prise avant que les mesures ci-desssus mentionnées n'aient été exécutées.

21. *D.* Comment devrons-nous procéder à l'incendie d'Ihtiman, si nous n'avons pas d'agents dans cette localité?—*R.* La moitié des habitants des villages de Mouheva, Vassilitcha, et Dakral doit attaquer les villages Circassiens sis entre Mouheva et Vassilitcha, tandis que l'autre moitié assaillira Ihtiman, qu'elle livrera au pillage et à l'incendie. Ces actes de vengeance et de rapine accomplis, ils se rendront à Vétren pour couper les fils télégraphiques, et, de là, aux portes de Markova, dans le but de protéger ce passage. Un contingent de cinquante individus ira mettre le feu à Vétren et à tous les villages sis dans la plaine de Bazardjik; ces individus doivent retourner à Caliquérova pour garder le passage d'Otlouk-keuy.

22. *D.* Dans le cas où nous n'aurions pas d'agents à Isladi, quel parti doit-on prendre?—*R.* 100 individus du village d'Avrat-Alan, sous le commandement du Voïvode d'Ilo, 200 individus du village d'Otlouk-keuy, sous le commandement d'Ostoyan Dobrotcho, et 100 individus de Tepritch, sous celui du Voïvode Fraïtcho, avec le Voïvode indigène Nito Colotcha (le Voïvode d'Avrat-Alan), doivent préalablement marcher sur Perdouh et y laisser une cinquantaine d'hommes pour soulever la population Bulgare de l'endroit; une partie de ces bandes se dirigera vers Sofia. Les corps placés sous les ordres des Voïvodes étrangers doivent être préposés à la défense du

passage de Tache-Kessen et le reste de la bande sera divisée en petites escouades, lesquelles envahiront les villages Musulmans sis dans la plaine et soulèveront les Bulgares d'Izladi, qu'ils conduiront à Petritch.

23. *D.* Qu'est-ce que nous devons faire d'Avrat-Alan et d'Otlouk-keuy ?—*R.* Ils doivent être mis en état de défense pour servir de lieu de refuge aux villageois des localités environnantes.

24. *D.* Comment faudra-t-il agir à l'égard de Klissoura ou Derbend-keuy ?—*R.* Les habitants de Klissoura doivent se réunir aux insurgés de Slatina et se partager en deux corps; les hommes formant la moitié de ce corps seront désignés pour garder le passage d'Izladi du côté sud-ouest; ceux qui font partie de l'autre moitié iront avec 100 hommes ouvrir, à l'aide de bêches et de pioches, une tranchée sur la route d'Islatana; ceux-ci seront placés sous les ordres d'Eyoulaski Iconomoff; Picho aura le commandement de la première moitié des individus sus-mentionnés du côté de l'ouest, et si ce chef demande du renfort il lui en sera envoyé, ainsi que des armes pour cent personnes.

25. *D.* Qu'est-ce qu'on doit faire particulièrement des Koulis-Balkani ?—*R.* Il est nécessaire de veiller à la défense des trois passes des villages de Kroucheudja, de Tchoukourli, et de Calofer. 300 hommes, après avoir détruit les villages de Pantchar, Timourdjiler, Zeitdjiler, Keussélédjé, Kissélerdjé, Dodoudj Madjar, Hildjé, Mahalleller, et Cara-Toprak, doivent protéger le passage de Tchokourli; 500 hommes ouvriront des tranchées à l'aide de bêches et de pioches sur ce passage, dont la garde est confiée à Volko de Kissélerdjé; ils doivent également défendre Balva, Sobodjilu, Cotchmarlar, et Beradjetki. Les habitants des villages de Marjarlar et de Boghaslar pénétreront dans les villages de Vezir Maghrouz et Calofer, et avec le concours des habitants des villageois garderont le passage de Calofer. Les habitants d'Araboda et de Medris Ova après avoir exterminé les Musulmans de ces localités, conduiront les familles à Calofer. 500 hommes, sous la conduite d'Ostoban et d'Andon, et avec le concours du guide étranger, détruiront Tarlaler et Souboudan. Les paysans de Nébé et de Dibloudjova transporteront leurs familles et leurs enfants à Meradjiuk et à Calofer. Les bandes mentionnées se rendront maîtres des villages qui opposeraient de la résistance et les réduiront à l'obéissance. Les habitants des villages Shrnova, Tatar-Bazardjik, Ikanova, Tchénoua, Kissen-Mahallessi, Achiklar, Cara-Tcheul, Kourbar-Bekié, Islatanr, et Edhimeler, avec un détachement d'insurgés se rendront à Torbana et garderont ce passage. Ils iront même avec les habitants des six ou sept villages sis autour d'Irsati au village de Badjar et pour garder conjointement avec les habitants de Madjetki et de Calofer, les villages de Kanzanlim, de Zaghra, et de Tcherpan en se concentrant sur les montagnes dominants les plains.

26. *D.* Comment garantira-t-on la sécurité des familles et leur transport aux points de concentration ?—*R.* Les villageois chargeront leurs familles ainsi que leurs enfants sur les chariots qui seront escortés durant le trajet par quatre gardiens. Ceux qui se trouveront en avant ou en arrière seront accompagnés par des troupes choisies de cavalerie, tandis que ceux qui se trouveront au milieu auront des fantassins pour escorte. Ces troupes conduiront ainsi la caravane en sûreté à sa destination. Un petit corps, suivant l'importance du village, restera pour veiller sur les biens laissés sans gardien jusqu'à ce qu'ils soient à leur tour transportés aux points de concentration. On brûlera le village, après l'avoir ainsi évacué. Les émigrés de Tcheradjen construiront 200 autres maisons pour ceux qui sont sans abri.

27. *D.* Où doit-on déposer en général les femmes, les enfants, et les provisions ?—*R.* Le point de concentration en amont de Soter doit être Akhi-Tchélébi.

28. Tous les habitants du côte nord-ouest de la Maritza jusqu'à Prouchtentcha, Cochtentcha, et Venda devront être dirigés sur Dospot Balkan par Batak. Le point de concentration de Batak comprend douze villages sis dans le district de Razlova. C'est de ces villages que le commandement doit être donné.

29. Tous les villages de Tchartchan jusqu'à Coyoun-Tépé ou tous ceux se trouvant à une heure de distance de Philippopoli doivent venir s'assembler à Avrat-Alan.

30. Les villages Tartars de ce côté de la Maritza, d'Otlouk-keuy à Méhé et de Povayram jusqu'à Pétrovitza doivent être évacués et les habitants auront le choix de l'endroit où ils voudront s'établir.

31. L'évacuation doit s'effectuer suivant la teneur de l'Article 26.

32. *D.* Est-il nécessaire, oui ou non, de brûler Sofia ?—*R.* Oui.

33. *D.* Comment doit-on s'y prendre ?—*R.* Dix individus d'Otlouk-keuy, cinq de Prochtenitza, cinq de Bratchkova, et dix de Petridje, Matchka, et Povayram, en tout trente individus, munis de torchons imbibés de pétrole et d'autres matières incendiaires seront chargés de livrer Sofia aux flammes.

34. *D.* Est-il nécessaire de couper partout les fils télégraphiques ?—*R.* Oui.

35. *D.* Comment doit être détruit le chemin de fer entre Bellova et Tetounitcha ? —*R.* Il faut briser et détruire tous les ponts, les pompes et toutes les locomotives se trouvant en réserve à Sarembey ; c'est Zahoria qui veillera à l'exécution de cette mesure.

36. *D.* Doit-on attendre le jour convenu pour se soulever ?—*R.* On doit attendre tant que les circonstances le permettront.

Toutes les clauses ci-dessus ont été approuvées, à la majorité, par les trois Délégués, par les Commissaires élus et par le Conseil Central Occidental de Roumélie.

Le 17 *Avril,* 1876.

(Signé) PETECHKOFF, *Délégué de Bratchkova.*
YOUVAN SOKOLOFF, *Délégué de Bazardjik.*
OSTOYANOFF, *Délégué d'Avrat-Alan.*
SOKOLOFF, *Délégué de Prouchendja.*
HOF, *Délégué de Derbend.*
CHISTAKI ZRUI, *Délégué de Philippopoli.*
GRONOFF.
RANCO GRONOFF.
MANQUET GOGOVI.
MERDJOFF, *Délégué d'Otlouk-keuy.*
PETRE VANKOFF.
JORGHI BENKOFSKI, *Envoyé de Roumélie.*
JORGHI ICONOMOFF.

Pour traduction conforme à l'original :

Le 20 *Mai,* 1876.

(Signé) ALEXANDRE, *Traducteur.*
MOUSTAPHA CHEVLAI, *Traducteur et Employé.*

Nous avons adopté et approuvé, dans l'Assemblée Générale tenue par nous à Otlouk-keuy et composée de douze personnes et de moi, les instructions ci-dessus contenant douze articles.

Le 11 *Juillet,* 1876.

Cette pièce en Turc est la traduction des dites instructions.

(Signé) VASSIL SOKOLOSKI.

La copie des instructions ci-dessus a été reconnue conforme à l'original par Vassil Sokoloski, l'un des chefs du mouvement qui déclare avoir signé ce document.

Le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Juillet,* 1876.

(Suit le sceau du Tribunal de Philippopoli.)

(Translation.)

Report presented to the Sublime Porte by the Extraordinary Tribunal instituted at Philippopolis to judge persons implicated in the late events in Bulgaria.

THE Bulgarian insurrection, which broke out in the district of Philippopolis and in the Caza of Bazardjik, has been promptly repressed by the Imperial armies. The insurgents had combined their plans and organized their forces, so that they had faith in the consequences and probable results of the rebellion. Happily this rebellion was crushed at its commencement; the inquiry has revealed all the culpable projects it had in view, and which it failed to execute. There is proof that these enemies of the nation and the country had set everything in action to organize the rising in its smallest details.

These formidable enemies to the existence of the Empire, who had enticed the Bulgarian population into such a perilous adventure, despite all the benefits they enjoyed as regards their welfare and prosperity, were so completely deceived in their hopes, that they endeavoured, in despair, to mask their actions, of which the Bulgarians themselves have been the first victims, while deeply deploring them. Thus, these culpable persons from that time have set themselves to mislead public opinion abroad, by representing in the most abominable light the events which have taken place in Bulgaria. For this reason we propose to set forth here the truth respecting the origin of the insurrection and its subsequent development.

The Revolutionary Committees formed in Moldo-Wallachia and in Servia had constantly, for a long time past, been kindling the flames of revolt among the Bulgarians of Roumelia, and had been making, with this in view, all kinds of sacrifices. They had made several endeavours to commence the execution of their projects. Several unsuccessful attempts took place not long ago in the Vilayet of the Danube and in other places. But three years ago, on information supplied by the secret police, twenty-five persons were arrested, on the charge of complicity in a plot formed by one Ouzounoff, who had endeavoured to spread revolutionary propaganda in the Bulgarian towns and villages. These persons were then brought to justice, and condemned to exile.

The events, of which the town of Eski-Zaghra was the scene last year, were only the prologue of the gloomy drama which was destined later on to assume such large proportions, thanks to the secret encouragement lavishly bestowed on the work of rebellion.

At the same time, the insurrectionary movement found ready adherents among the numerous popes and schoolmasters in Servia and Russia. This movement, prepared so long ago, suddenly broke out, accompanied by acts of violence and cruelty which humanity and civilization reprobate with horror. The last inquiry affords sad proof of the excesses to which the spirit of rebellion can attain among these primitive populations when a prey to excitements caused by enemies of foreign origin.

The inquiry carried on by the Tribunal *ad hoc*, formed at Philippopolis by order of the Sublime Porte, to try the insurgents who had been arrested, leaves no room for doubt as to the means employed to prepare the movement, or as to the encouragement which has been lavished for the purpose of disturbing the minds of the population. This is a point which is worthy of being developed as it deserves.

We have already mentioned the plot of Ouzounoff and the events at Eski-Zaghra. The insurrectionary idea, which had received this first impulse, gained ground daily amongst the credulous and ignorant populations, who were worked upon incessantly by the fallacious promises of the emissaries from Moldo-Wallachia and Servia, as well as by the popes and schoolmasters. For some time past arms and munitions had been introduced clandestinely, and action was shortly imminent.

Certainly there was no lack of instigation.

Two or three months before the day fixed for the rising, the Committees had sent several emissaries into Roumelia. Ghorgui Nikofski, Petri Vancoff, and Ghorgui Economoff, were selected for the district of Philippopolis. On their arrival in the country, these individuals chose, as centres of insurrection, the villages of Avrat-Alan, Persedam, and Perouchtindja, in the district of Philippopolis, and the villages of Otlouk-keuy, Bratchkona, and Batak, in the Caza of Bazardjik. All these villages are situated on the slope of the Balkans, and are peopled exclusively by Bulgarians. These emissaries found the populations already prepared for the revolt, and they rallied round them, without difficulty, when the word was given.

After having formed a Central Committee, charged to direct the movement, these agents betook themselves to the other Bulgarian villages in succession, where they instituted Sub-Committees. They communicated to them the programme, bearing the seal of the Central Committee, which indicated the rôle of each, and represented the insurrection as an enterprise which bore a sacred character. This programme aimed at nothing less than a revolution, having for object the independence of Bulgaria under a new Government. The insurgents had instructions to massacre the Mussulman population, to burn the towns and villages, and after having thus struck terror into the minds of the Mussulmans, to oppose an energetic resistance to the troops sent against them. They were ordered to follow strictly the orders of the insurrectionary agents. They were assured that arms and munitions, as well as reinforcements, would speedily be dispatched to them from Servia and even other countries; they were invited lastly to join themselves to the legions which were said to be ready to march to their assistance, and to make every effort to prepare the insurrection, and to set it on foot until the arrival of the reinforcements. In this way they managed to extend the ramifications of the movement, and succeeded in convincing the populations. The popes preached incendiary sermons, prayed for the success of the rebellion, and exhorted the peasants to shrink from no sacrifice in order to obtain the regeneration of the nation.

An oath was administered to the adherents of the revolt, and they were told that chests of gold would be sent from Russia to indemnify them for the burning of their houses, and the loss of their live stock and property. By means of these promises the leaders arrived at a knowledge of the number of the combatants, and caused statistical statements to be delivered to them giving the number of inhabitants and houses in each village. After every kind of effort for the preparation and organization of the rebellion, it broke out under the following circumstances:—

It had been decided, as it appears from publications and resolutions made and adopted by the organizers of the movement, that the insurrection should break out on the 1st of May at an appointed hour, and at all points at the same time; but the preliminary inquiry has since shown that the movement broke out some days before the date fixed—that is to say, on the 20th April.

As to the measures taken by the authorities, it appears likewise from the inquiry that in the fortnight preceding the commencement of hostilities, the instigators of the movement, with the evident aim of laying the final bases of the rebellion, and of proceeding to its final organisation, held a Council presided over by the chiefs, and composed of over 300 members, among whom were priests, schoolmasters, learned men, or knowing how to read and write, who came from the towns or villages, and who afterwards took an active part in the insurrection.

This Council was held at Metchka-Déressi, in the vicinity of Otlouk-Keuy, and the resolutions that were adopted were embodied in an act or *procès-verbal* drawn up at the time, and containing thirty-six articles or propositions showing, on one side, the programme to be followed, and containing, on the other, the engagements entered into by the conspirators.

This act, which bears the signature of the Chiefs, and a translation of which is annexed to this report, is remarkable for the incendiary language and spirit of destruction which shows itself in each expression. One finds the same spirit in like documens, since found, and now being translated, as well as in the books, pamphlets, and other publications of this nature.

One Tetko took part in this Council, a faithful reporter of what took place, who, to escape the dangers of a perilous situation, had signed the above-quoted act, but who, when the Council broke up, hastened to Bazardjik, where he reported the things as they had passed. The authorities, warned by this man, at once sent the police officer Ahmed Agha to Otlouk-keuy with some men, and at the same time ordered Nedjib Agha, another police officer, to Avrat-Alan. These two officers were instructed to inform themselves minutely of what was passing in those localities, and to watch the actions and conduct of the inhabitants.

On his arrival at Avrat-Alan, Nedjib Agha at once perceived the preparations going on there, and the evident disposition of the population to disturb order and peace. He at once had two persons, Dochtessaly Téodor and Thosson Yorghi, arrested and imprisoned; but he had scarcely commenced their examination, when their associates, seeing that their plans had been divulged to the authorities, and that the latter would at once take measures to suppress the movement and prevent it from breaking out, and judging, moreover, that all delay had become impossible, unmasked themselves entirely by being the first to unfurl the standard of rebellion.

Then one saw the insurgents group themselves round their Chief, one Théodore Kapakhof, and betake themselves in arms to the authorities, demanding from Nedjib Agha the immediate release of the two men he had arrested; and while some of them were attaking his men, Nedjib Agha cut his way boldly through this infuriated mob, and managed to escape.

The insurgents then at once attacked the Mudir, whom they massacred, together with several zaptiehs.

These sad events took place on the 20th of April, from which day dates the commencement of the insurrection in Bulgaria.

The leaders of Otlouk-keuy, on their side, were at once informed by their spies of the mission of Ahmed Agha, and were soon acquainted with the events of which Avrat-Alan had been the scene.

All that had taken place and the information supplied by Tetko left no more room for doubt as to the projects of the rebels; the authorities in the district acquainted those of the vilayet with these facts, and the latter, among other arrangements, despatched with all speed to Bazardjik two bodies of mounted police from the direction of Zaghra, as well as a small detachment of infantry, taken from the Redifs allotted as the guard of the depôt at Philippopolis.

The inhabitants of Otlouk-keuy then saw that the Government was really acquainted with their plot, and was already taking energetic measures against them. They rose *en masse*, and proceeded to massacre the substitute of the Mudir, who was himself absent, some zaptiehs, the farmer Cherif Effendi, of Philippopolis, and all the Mussulmans who fell into their hands.

Thus the insurrection broke out on the same day at two different points, and thus the rebel chiefs of six other insurgent localities were enabled, through the facilities afforded by the topography of the districts, to meet the next night, and to visit in

person the neighbouring country to induce the population to rise, announcing to them either personally or by messengers the deeds which had occurred, and calling them to arms.

The insurrection spread from that moment like a fire, and the villagers, ordinarily so indifferent and peaceful, left their houses and homes, and hurried, armed and supplied with provisions, to the summons of the leaders of the insurrection.

They marched in small bodies, and in the direction of the spots which had been pointed out to them as rallying places.

All these facts are clearly established by the depositions and avowals of the prisoners, which are found embodied in their examinations.

As for the sad events which took place on the scene of the revolt, the rebels of the districts assembled, as mentioned above, in the six different centres of the insurrection, namely, the villages of Avrat-Alan, Perasudum-Derbend, Pruchtendja, Otlouk-keuy, Bratchkova, and Batak, erected for defence against the impending attacks of the Imperial troops, redoubts and barricades, and had them guarded by sentries. They meant to take refuge there if they were hard pressed, before the arrival of the forces which were to come to their aid from Servia and elsewhere. They began to put into practice the instructions they had repeatedly received. First, an insurgent band, recruited at Kloura (Bazardjik) and in the neighbouring villages, destroyed two or three large bridges on the road that leads to Sofia, and a great portion of the telegraph wires. Another band, formed in the vicinity of Bellova, set fire to the railway station and burnt it, together with some Mussulman guards and two gendarmes. It destroyed likewise a large bridge on the railway, and marked its commencement of the movement by these barbarous acts of destruction.

In the direction of Avrat-Alan the insurgents seized the Mudir, five gendarmes, and later on the secretary of the Mudir, the chief of Custom-house, the Mussulman gipsies, who chanced to be in those parts, and Mussulman peasants to the number of about one hundred. They led them by groups to the place of torture, and victimized them, one by one, with the last refinements of cruelty. They distributed among themselves the mutilated remains of these victims, and gave themselves up to demonstrations of joy at Bratchkova. Among those who fell under the blows of these madmen some were shot, others killed by repeated stabs, and some were first mutilated in a horrible way, then impaled and roasted. They proceeded in like manner with the women.

They first exposed them before the eyes of the rebels, stripped of their garments, and then delivered them to death, making them suffer such degrading tortures that human imagination can hardly credit them. They perpetrated, moreover, other crimes, each more hateful than the other, especially at Otlouk-keuy as elsewhere, during the excitement of the first moments. The insurgents of the villages of Yéni-keuy, Zindjirli and Kloura, during their march to these rallying points, committed the worst atrocities. They killed and cut in pieces every Mussulman man, woman and child they met. These are facts vouched for by the very confessions of the authors of these cruelties.

We will now pass in review the nature of the measures which the Imperial authorities were forced to adopt in view of these criminal deeds.

The Government in the first place made itself completely master of the object the insurgents had in view in giving themselves up to these acts of violence. It will be seen in the instructions embodied in the programme of the insurrection, of which a copy in translation is inclosed, how the conflagaration was intended to be lit in a great number of towns and hamlets, commencing with Philippopolis and Bazardjik, in order thus to give everywhere the signal of revolt, and, profiting by the confusion, to proceed to a general attack.

The execution of this plan had already been attempted at Philippopolis. For, while the news of the rising, of the concentration of the rebels at different points, and of the acts of violence they indulged in at the very gates of the towns, were reaching the ears of the peaceable inhabitants, and while these latter were occupied with organizing measures of defence for the safety of their homes, their property, and their lives, suddenly about one o'clock in the morning, fire breaks out simultaneously in the workshops of Sieur Dimitri, a Bulgarian candle manufacturer, and of the shoemaker Coutcho, both establishments in the very centre of the town of Philippopolis.

It has been abundantly proved, both by the examination which the said Dimitri underwent, and by the conduct and tragic end of the shoemaker Coutcho, that these fires were lit on purpose. The latter had fled to the insurgents of Prouchtentza, who resisted for some days the Imperial troops, but seeing that all means of escaping the just punishment he deserved was impossible, he slaughtered without pity his wife and young

children, and then put an end to himself; the insurgents themselves confirmed these abominable details. As to the double fire, it was promptly mastered by the energetic efforts of the local authorities. Nevertheless, other attempts of the same kind were made in the Mussulman and non-Mussulman villages in the country round Philippopolis, from whence they could be seen.

On the other hand, as these districts were at that time unsupplied with an armed force sufficient to oblige the rebels to retreat, and to defend the surrounding hamlets, and as the popular imagination, as is always the case, after giving free course to most exaggerated rumours, had in the end raised the number of the insurgents to 30,000 or 40,000, and as the glare of the fires in their turn pointed to the existence of the conspirators in the very midst of the town, the terror and exasperation of the population were boundless.

On the same night that the fires broke out, it was ascertained that the peasants of the Bulgarian villages of the districts near Philippopolis had advanced in great force to within a league of the town; that at Bazardjik, on the outskirts of the village of Kloura, three hours' distance from this locality, a body of insurgents, composed of 5,000 men, after putting to death all the Mussulman gipsies who happened to be there, were advancing towards Bazardjik, with the view of devoting themselves to a general massacre of the Mussulmans. These reports, incessantly renewed, made it absolutely necessary for the authorities to take prompt and energetic measures; orders were consequently given to arm, without further delay, all the available Mussulman population who were on the two spots threatened, and who, assisted by any available gendarmes, were to form detachments of improvised militia, to whom the defence of the country might be entrusted. These arrangements, dictated by prudence and necessity, had an immediate effect. The conspirators, on the point of attacking the two towns, renounced their project as soon as they became aware of the measures of defence which had been taken, and retraced their steps towards their starting point, not without committing all sorts of excesses and crimes on the way.

Works for the defence of these two towns were at once set on foot, as far as possible; but the insurgent chiefs, when they learnt that the authorities had not sufficient troops at their disposal to attack and disperse them, determined on setting on fire the houses of the Mussulmans in the surrounding villages, and thus the rebels burnt a part of Islitzé, a dependency of Bazardjik, and inhabited by a mixed population. The Mussulmans of this place took refuge at once with their families in the Mosque, where they were surrounded by the insurgents. The rebels of Otlouk-keuy and Avrat-Alan, on learning this, hastened thither, and, for five days, attacked the Mosque, which only resisted their attacks, thanks to the solidity of its construction. Ten Mussulmans had already fallen, and the rest were continuing to defend themselves, when, on the fifth day, the Mussulmans of Dorghoutli and Ghraldiné came to their aid and attacked the insurgents. During the fight, the besieged made good their escape and fled. It was the same in the cases of the villages of Borouk, dependency of Bazardjik, and of Tchanakdjilar, in the district of Philippopolis, and of several others also, the Mussulman inhabitants of which, after being attacked and surrounded by the insurgents, suffered considerable loss.

As has been said above, the immediate repression of these acts of barbarity and violence was judged to be most necessary, seeing that if the insurrection had lasted some days longer, it would have assumed considerable proportions, and have spread on all sides, till it could not have been mastered, and would have entailed, without doubt, a great and irreparable calamity.

Acting on orders given by his Highness the Grand Vizier, and while awaiting the arrival of the regular troops, bodies of volunteers, sufficient in number, were formed in the district, and placed at different spots to watch over the public security. When some battalions of the line were sent, the volunteer corps joined these troops and assumed the offensive.

At first the insurgents took up an attitude of defence, and opened fire on our troops from their wooden guns, but perceiving soon that they could not resist the vigorous attacks of the Imperial troops, who fired some shots in the direction of the villages of Bratchkova and Avrat-Alan, they begged to give in their submission, which was at once accepted by the commanding officers. These insurgents did not lose a single man, and experienced no bad treatment at the hands of the troops.

There were others who would not yield to the repeate dproposals of surrender made to them by our commanders, and who persisted in the contest against our troops for some days, but they also begged to lay down their arms, when later on the Imperial army prepared to attack them more vigorously.

Their submission was accepted, and no harm was done them, in spite of the punishment their atrocious acts deserved.

After effecting the arrest of the assassins, incendiaries, and bad characters who were among them, and who were sent to the chief town for imprisonment, the Imperial troops took under their protection the children and families of these latter, as well as the other insurgents who had submitted. Huts were at once established in the villages that had been destroyed, as a shelter for them; rations were distributed, and all their wants were looked to.

Even at the present moment, by order of the Grand Vizier, sums of money from 5,000 to 10,000 piastres are advanced to them, which sums are taken from the savings-bank.

As the authorities received information that the insurgents of the village of Prestinitza, one of the centres of revolution of Philippopolis, had seized three Mussulmans (Pomaks), who had gone there to buy bread, and had mutilated them horribly, and were preparing to assault the Mussulman population of an adjacent village, Ostona, they despatched to the spot Hadji Mehemed and Hadji Raschid Effendis, well known in Philippopolis, and Todoraki Agha, a Bulgarian Member of the Court of Appeal, to exhort and urge them, in their own interests, to desist from their culpable designs, and to re-enter the path of obedience. These delegates summoned some of the principal inhabitants of the said village, and they endeavoured to make them listen to the voice of reason; at the same time they transmitted urgent counsels to the insurgents to dissuade them from their project. All these steps were unsuccessful. As the rebels persisted in their hostile intentions, troops and volunteers were sent against them under the command of Brigadier-General Réchid Pasha. On the arrival of these troops, the insurgents greeted them with repeated discharges of musketry, at first from behind their barricades, and subsequently from loopholes made in the walls of their church, where they had entrenched themselves. Twenty-four soldiers and volunteers fell victims to this act of aggression. As the insurgents persistently refused all summonses to yield within three days, in spite of all guarantees granted them, a recourse to arms to subdue them was rendered inevitable. Of 2,000 insurgents, natives and foreigners, who were entrenched in this church, about 300 perished; the remainder, seeing that all resistance was impossible, asked for quarter. Rechid Pasha received them kindly, and detaining the assassins and ringleaders, he sent the others to their homes.

It is to be remarked that most of these 300 victims fell under circumstances which difficult to realize. Some died by their own hands after first killing their wives and children. Some fell fighting among themselves, accusing each other of being the cause of all this evil. Although these insurgents had intended to massacre all the Mussulman population of the village of Ostona, yet, after the suppression of the movement, 430 Bulgarians took refuge in this same village with their children, and were generously received for five days by those whom they had resolved to destroy with the sword. They were provided with food, and protected against all attacks, and after being treated according to the sacred precepts of the Mussulman religion, they were delivered over safe and sound to the hands of the Commander of the troops.

This humane and generous conduct, of which however no mention has been made by the fanciful narrators of these sad events, has remained engraved in the memory and gratitude of the Bulgarians. As public opinion has always a propensity to exaggerate the number of Mussulmans victimized by the insurgents, as well as that of the Christians who fell in the process of suppression or of vengeance, and as, moreover, more than one false report has circulated as to the way in which the villages were burnt, we think it our duty to place the facts here in their true light, and give a succinct exposé of the information obtained as the result of the inquiry we entered into on this subject.

It is positively proved that the insurgents who were in the centres we have indicated, or who were spread through other localities, in abandoning their villages, which they burnt themselves, massacred altogether 530 Mussulmans. The number of Bulgarians slain in the combats against the Imperial troops and volunteers, amounts, according to the existing calculation, to 1,836 individuals. So, in the fight with the insurgents of Prestinitza, one of the most serious which took place, the insurgents, after a resistance of three days, had only 303 killed, of which number several, as we have said, committed suicide after killing their wives and children, and some fell fighting among themselves. These numbers are proved by an authentic list, with names attached, which was supplied by the inhabitants of this village themselves.

As regards the burning of the insurgent villages, consequent on orders given by the instigators of the movement, every insurgent, on proceeding with all his property and family to the place allotted for the assembly of the rebels, was bound to completely evacuate

his place of habitation, and to set fire to it himself. The insurgents of several villages obeyed this order; but it is further clearly proved, from the confession even of the prisoners, that on some Bulgarians quitting their homes without setting them on fire, the insurgent chiefs, such as Todor Vilesko, native of Avrat-Alan, Kristo and Yorghni, sons of Vassil, a grocer at Philippopolis, and others, who traversed the country to excite the population to revolt, themselves undertook the task. Only three villages were burnt after a combat.

Forty-nine villages, Mussulman and Christian, with 11,453 houses, were burnt by the insurgents in the way we have described. Among these villages there were seven exclusively Mussulman, five with mixed population, and thirty-seven exclusively Christian. The number of houses burnt in these villages amounts to 6,358, the other 5,095 escaped the flames.

It is a curious fact that, at the time when the Christian inhabitants of the mixed village of Sotir, a dependency of the Sandjak of Philippopolis, were quitting their houses to go towards the Balkans and join the insurgents, some Mussulmans, who saw that a fire had broken out in the house of a Christian, at once mastered the flames, and took care of the houses and the small objects left by the fugitives.

When these latter, after their submission, re-entered their homes, all these objects were restored to them intact. The expressions of gratitude of the Bulgarians bear witness to this worthy and honourable conduct of their Mussulman compatriots.

Before the events we have just narrated, the Bulgarians had lived for centuries in good fellowship with their Mussulman compatriots, under the shield of the laws and the fatherly protection of the authorities. It was reserved for the mischievous spirit of ambitious criminals, like certain priests and schoolmasters, revolutionary agents from abroad, to come and corrupt the simplicity and native goodness of these tractable populations, and to drive them to acts of cruelty which they would never have been capable of without the savage instigation of these enemies of society.

All the inquiries that have been made show that the insurrectionary movement was to break out on the 1st of May, and was to extend to Adrianople, Sofia, and the Vilayet of the Danube.

The preventive and energetic measures taken by the authorities alone defeated the calculations of the conspirators, by causing a premature outbreak which disorganized their plans, and confined the movement within the limits of the Sandjak of Philippopolis and Tatar-Bazardjik.

The preceding accounts have reference to the origin of the sedition, and show in what manner and by what means instigations and open encouragement worked to bring about such a s tate of things. Nevertheless, the examination and report, from information we have been able to collect, of the true causes, moral and material, which produced this movement, seem to us to offer a greater interest.

Practically, the information we actually possess comes in a great degree from explanations furnished, up to a certain point, by some of the conspirators at the time of their examination. It is to be regretted, however, that the three principal persons, who had been chosen as leaders and organizers of the movement in this country, succeeded, at the moment their party was defeated, in escaping from Otlouk-keuy. Of these three, the first, Yorghi Nokopolski, was discovered later by agents sent on the trace of the fugitives in the mountains of Sofia, where he was playing the spy; he was killed there while defending himself. The other two—Petri Vankoff and Yorghi Iconomoff—who also made good their flight, in the end met their fate, according to information we received, by being drowned near Zichtova. In the same way one Thodori Kapesco, one of the chief leaders of the insurgents of Avrat-Alan, known since last year by a long pamphlet in which he developed his subversive principles, and the author of a seditious document, which, luckily, has fallen into our hands, and which is worthy of remark, and of which we append a translation, was arrested on the mountain of Toriana, near Lofdja, and subsequently brought to Tirnova. Thence, on the demand of the authorities of Philippopolis, he was brought towards this town. On his arrival at Gabrova, he was put in a room occupied by gendarmes. There, seizing his opportunity, he got possession of a musket hung on the wall, and put an end to himself.

Besides these there are also the two sons of the grocer Vassil, of Philippopolis, of whom one was likewise killed in the mountains of Tourain, in resisting the agents charged to arrest him; and the other has now for a long time been a fugitive. This disappearance in succession of the chief promoters of the revolt, of those very men who were the most compromised by their secret operations, has unfortunately much restricted the body of the information that we have been able to collect respecting the mysterious motives of this rising. However, the books, publications, and other seditious documents

which have been collected, throw a sufficient light on this affair, and are sufficient to enlighten us as to its essential points. Besides these documents, of which translations accompany this Report, there are more in process of translation, and which will be presented later. The most remarkable, and the one which attracts most attention by the violence of the language, and by its appeals to revolt, which find a vent in each page, is, without doubt, a publication in Russian characters, of the year 1867, entitled "Centres of Deliberation." As this work could not be conveniently translated here, we are satisfied with giving some short quotations of the principal passages.

Pages 372 and 373 of the publication in question contain the following facts and acts of the Committee constituted under the presidency of Prince Vladimir Alexandrovitch:—

1. The Committee shall have representatives in each of the branches that are to be established in the East of the Ottoman Empire, in Austria, and in other countries.

2. The representatives of the Levant and of Austria will have to examine the past and present condition of the Slav nation; to seek means for its development in education, riches, and strength, and to labour to push forward both the policy supported by the President and Russia, and the end and aim of Panslavism, under the cloak of insurrection.

At page 371 it is stated that a certain number of educated and erudite Bulgarians shall assist in these deliberations and projects.

In a passage on page 373 it is said too that a poem has been composed, inspired by the famous Bulgarian, Zindjikoff, to solicit the aid and protection of Russia in the event of an approaching rising with the view of snatching the Bulgarian nation from the clutches of the bloody, cruel, and barbarous Turks, and of expelling these latter. In a song entitled "Bulgare Zeliravitckasse," an appeal is made to the union of the Slavs, Servians, Montenegrins, Croats, Tcheques, Slovackians, Bosnians, and Herzegovinians.

In a word, the tenour of this publication is the union of the Bulgarians with all the other Slav nations; the creation of a Bulgarian kingdom, stretching from the Vardar to the Danube. Collective and constant efforts are to be made to realise this aim; they are, further, to labour to obtain the preponderance of the Slavs over the other nations, and to secure their independence, and to subjugate and reduce to slavery the other nations. This publication contains likewise wishes for the prosperity of the city of Moscow, looked upon as the mother saint of the Bulgarians, and for the happiness of the Russian nation, which is to save the Slav nation.

Considering the importance of the insurrectionary movement of this country, which has completely submitted to the influence of all these publications, the events of Islimia, Tirnova, and Sofia, having broken out simultaneously towards the beginning of May, it is easy, after the mention of the above facts, to understand the source from which the insurrection drew its origin.

(Signed) HALIL SIDKI, MEHMED RAGUIB, THODORAKI, HATCHADOUR, *Members of the Extraordinary Tribunal.*
NOURI, YORGUI CLITI, HADJI MICHON, *Members of the Commission of Inquiry.*

(Signed) GARABET, *Secretary.*
YAKOVAKI, *Translator.*

The Council of Administration has acquainted itself with the above report, and declares it in all points in accord with the truth of the facts which have been collected.

The 13th Redjeb, 1293 (*July* 22, 1876).

(Signed) ABDUL HAMID, *Governor of Philippopolis.*
EL SEID MEHMED TAHIB, *Naib.*
EL SAID MAHSOULI, *Member.*
NÉOPHITOS, *Metropolitan of Philippopolis.*
SULEIMAN SADI, *Controller.*
NOUMAN NAIM, *Secretary.*
KÉVORK, *Representing the Spiritual Head of the Armenian Nation.*
MUSTAPHA ASSIM.
MAHMOUD.
MEHMED NOURI.
YORGUI CASSARA.

Interrogatories drawn up and settled in a Meeting of Insurgents, held at Otlouk-Keuy, under the Presidency of the Voïvode Nikowski, and found on him after his death. These interrogatories have reference to the conduct to be observed during the insurrection.

1. *Q. The Commissioners:* Do you all consent to raise the standard of revolt the 1st of May?—*A.* Yes, only we should have preliminary warning from the 25th April.

2. *Q.* Are Adrianople, Philippopolis, and Bazardjik to be burnt?—*A. The Commission:* Yes.

3. *Q.* Are the railroads and telegraph wires to be destroyed?—*A.* Yes, they must be.

4. *Q.* Are Carlova, Isladi, and Ihtiman to be destroyed?—*A.* Yes.

5. *Q.* Are the villages to be burnt or not?—*A.* Yes.

6. *Q.* Are all the villages generally to be burnt?—*A.* No, not all of them.

7. *Q.* Which villages are especially to be burnt?—*A.* All those whose existence can interfere with the insurrection should be absolutely destroyed.

8. *Q.* What conduct is to be observed towards the Bulgarians who will not rise on the given day?—*A.* They must be forced by every means to do so.

9. *Q.* What action is to be observed as regards the mixed villages? Should they be incited to rise or left to the mercy of the Mussulmans?—*A.* Insurgent bands organised in villages exclusively Bulgarian, and adjacent to the mixed villages, will go to these latter to deliver the Bulgarians from the hands of the Turks and bring them to the rallying point indicated.

10. *Q.* What conduct is to be observed with regard to the Mussulmans of the mixed villages who may oppose our plans?—*A.* Massacre them, pillage their property, and burn their dwellings.

11. *Q.* What is to be done with the population of the Mussulman villages?—*A.* The insurgents shall, without losing time, attack them, and force them to submit by means of fire and sword.

12. *Q.* How ought the Mussulmans who submit to be treated?—*A.* Their arms, their supplies, and their moveable goods must be taken and an Ilm-ou haber (receipt) given by the insurgent chiefs. This property ought to be deposited in the Bulgarian chests. In no case should the population who have submitted be requisitioned.

13. *Q.* What should be the line of conduct towards the Turks that submit?—*A.* They ought to be confided to our agents who will take them to the head-quarters of the insurrection. Thence they will be directed with their families and aged men to the places which are used as refuges by our own families. They should live there in brotherly concord. It is our duty to watch over their happiness, their life and religion as much as the honour and life of our own people. The young men will be put under the surveillance of our agents.

14. *Q.* What must be done to the houses belonging to the Mussulmans who have submitted?—*A.* It will be necessary on this point to conform with what has been said in Article 7.

15. *Q.* Which are the towns to be burnt? Will it be necessary to act in accordance with Article 2?—*A.* The manner which seems most convenient must be chosen, and the towns burnt if the topographical position and the attitude of the population render it necessary.

16. *Q.* What is to be done with respect to the Bulgarians inhabiting the towns?—*A.* They should be protected.

17. *Q.* After having burnt Philippopolis what should be done to save the Bulgarian inhabitants?—*A.* Help will be sent to them from two sides. They must be collected and sent elsewhere with all the available force.

18. *Q.* What shall be done with Adrianople?—*A.* The Commissioners: As we have no agents in that town, we can form no decision on that point.

19. *Q.* After having burnt Bazardjik, what ought to be done to save the Bulgarian populations in that town?—*A.* Reinforcements for their protection should be sent.

20. *Q.* How should they be protected, and whence can succour be furnished them from without?—*A.* It is our duty to collect as many reinforcements as possible from the surrounding villages, and to join these reinforcements to the division of Otlouk-keuy, placed under the orders of Benkofski, who should advance to the attack. Forty fires should precede the entry of the insurgents into the town; the population is then charged with setting fire everywhere. Before entering a town, the chief commissary whom the Commander-in-chief shall name ought to go to the town; the inhabitants ought to go there at the same time. Twenty persons have been named by the Assembly General to burn Philippopolis and ten for Adrianople. Sokoloff, Delegate for Bazardjik,

is entrusted with the forwarding the above-mentioned thirty persons to the said localities; no new decision will be taken before that the above-mentioned measures shall have been executed.

21. *Q.* How shall we manage to burn Ihtiman, if we have no agents there?—*A.* Half the inhabitants of Mouheva, Vassilitcha, and Dakral must attack the Circassian villages situated between Mouheva and Vassilitcha, whilst the other half assails Ihtiman, which it will deliver up to fire and sword. When these acts of vengeance and of rapine are accomplished, they must go to Vétren to cut the telegraph wires, and thence to the gates of Markova, with the object of protecting this pass. A party of fifty individuals will go and set fire to Vétren, and to all the villages situated in the plain of Boyardjik; these persons must return to Caliquérova to guard the pass of Otlouk-keuy.

22. *Q.* In case we have no agents at Isladi, what ought to be done?—*A.* 100 of the inhabitants of Avrat-Alan, under the command of Voïvode d'Ilo, 200 of the village of Otlouk-keuy, under the orders of Ostoyan Dobrotcho, and 100 from Tepritch, under that of the Voïvode Fraïtcho, with the native Voïvode Nito Colotcha (the Voïvode of Avrat-Alan), ought in the first place to march on Perdouh, and leave there fifty men to raise the Bulgarian population of the neighbourhood; a part of these bands will march on Sofia. The bodies placed under the orders of the foreign Voïvodes ought to be placed for the defence of the Tuche-Kessen pass, and the remainder will be divided into small parties, which will attack the Mussulman villages in the plain and raise the Bulgarians of Izladi, whom they will take to Petritch.

23. *Q.* What are we to do with Avrat-Alan and Otlouk-keuy?—*A.* They ought to be put into a state of defence, to serve as a place of refuge for the villagers of the neighbourhood.

24. *Q.* What is to be done with Klissoura or Derbend-keuy?—*A.* The inhabitants of Klissoura must join the Slatina insurgents and divide into two bodies; the men forming one-half of this body will be charged with the defence of the Izladi pass to the south-west; those who form part of the other half will go with about 100 men to open by means of spades and pick-axes, an entrenchment on the Islatana road; the latter will be placed under the orders of Eyoubaski Iconomoff; Picho will have command of the first half of the above-mentioned men on the western side, and if this chief asks for reinforcements, they will be sent to him, as well as arms for 100 men.

25. *Q.* What in particular is to be done with Koulis-Balkani?—*A.* It is necessary to look after the defence of the three passes of the villages of Krouchendja, Tchoukourdi, and Calofer. Three hundred men, after having destroyed the villages of Pontchar, Timourdjiler, Zeitjiler, Keussélédjé, Kissélerdjé, Dodoudj Madjar, Hildjé, Mahalleller, and Cara Toprak, must protect the pass of Tchokourli; 500 men with spades and pickaxes will make entrenchments in this pass, the defence of which is confided to Volko of Ressélerdji. They ought also to defend Balva, Sobodjilu, Cotchmarlar, and Buradjetki. The inhabitants of the villages of Marjarlar and of Boghaslur will enter the villages of Vezir Magvouz and Calofer, and with the help of the inhabitants will defend the pass of Calover. The inhabitants of Araboda and of Medris Ova, after having exterminated all the Mussulmans of those places, will convey their families to Calofer. Five hundred men, led by Oltoban and Andow, and with the assistance of the foreign guide, will destroy Tarlater and Soubondan. The peasants of Nebé and Dibloudjova will move their families and their children to Meradjiuk and Calofer. The above bands will take possession of the villages which offer resistance, and will compel submission. The inhabitants of the villages of Shrnova, Tatar-Bazardjik, Ikanova, Tchénoua, Kissen-Mahallessi, Achiklar, Cara-Tcheul, Kourbar-Bekié, Islatanr, and Edhimeler, with a detachment of insurgents, will go to Torbona and guard that pass. They will go with the inhabitants of six or seven villages in the neighbourhood of Irsati to the village of Badjar, to guard, in conjunction with the inhabitants of Madjelki and Calofer, the villages of Ranzanlina, Zagra, and Tcherfan, by concentrating themselves on the mountains over the plains.

26. *Q.* How can the security of the families and their transport to the points of meeting be guaranteed?—*A.* The villagers will place their families and children on carts, which will be escorted on their journey by four guards. Those who are in front or behind will be accompanied by chosen troops of cavalry, whilst those in the centre will be escorted by foot soldiers. These troops will in this way lead the caravan in safety to its destination. A small body, in proportion to the strength of the village, will remain to look after the property left without guard until they are in their turn transported to the points of meeting. The village will be burnt after it has been evacuated. The emigrants of Tcheradjen will construct 200 other houses for those who are without shelter.

27. *Q.* Where is to be the chief depôt for the women, children, and provisions?—*A.* The point of concentration above Soter is to be Akhi-Tchélébi.

28. *Q.* All the inhabitants of the north-west coast of the Maritza, as far as Prouchtentcha, Cochtencha, and Venda, should go towards Dospot Balkan, by Batak. The point of concentration of Batak comprehends twelve villages situated in the district of Razlova. The head-quarters should be in these villages.

29. All the villages of Tchartchan, as far as Coyven Tépé, or all those at a distance of one hour from Philippopoli, must assemble at Avrat-Alan.

30. The Tartar villages on this side of Maritza, from Otlouk-Keuy to Mélié, and from Povayram up to Pétrovitza, are to be evacuated, and the inhabitants are to choose where they would like to establish themselves.

31. The evacuation should be carried out in conformity with the tenor of Article 26.

32. *Q.* Is it necessary, yes or no, to burn Sofia?—*A.* Yes.

33. *Q.* How is it to be done?—*A.* Ten inhabitants of Otlouk-Keuy, five of Prochtenitza, five of Bratckova, and ten of Patridje, Matchka, and Povayram, in all thirty persons, provided with torches soaked in petroleum and other incendiary matter, will be entrusted with delivering Sofia to the flames.

34. *Q.* Is it necessary to cut the telegraphic wires everywhere?—*A.* Yes.

35. *Q.* How ought the railroad between Bellova and Tetounitcha to be destroyed?—*A.* All the bridges, pumps, and locomotives, in reserve at Sarembey, must be broken to pieces and destroyed. Zahoria will see to the execution of this measure.

36. *Q.* Ought we to wait for the day settled for our rising?—*A.* You ought to wait as long as circumstances will allow.

All the above clauses have been approved by a majority of the three Delegates, the elected Commissioners, and the Western Council-General of Roumelia.

April 17, 1876.

(Signed) PETECHKOFF, *Delegate of Bratchkova.*
YOUVAN SOKOLOFF, *Delegate of Bazardjik.*
OSTOYANOFF, *Delegate of Avrat-Alan.*
SOKOLOFF, *Delegate of Prouchendja.*
HOF, *Delegate of Derbend.*
CHISTAKI ZRUI, *Delegate of Philippopoli,*
GRONOFF.
RANCO GRONOFF.
MARQUET GOGOVI.
MERDJOFF, *Delegate of Otlouk-keuy.*
PETRE VANKOFF.
JORGHI BENKOFSKI, *Envoy from Roumeli.*
JORGHI ICONOMOFF.

Correct translation.

May 20, 1876.

(Signed) ALEXANDRE, *Translator.*
MOUSTAPHA CHEFLAI, *Translator and Employé.*

We have adopted and approved in the Assembly General held by us, and composed of twelve persons and myself, the above instructions containing twelve articles.

July 11, 1876.

This document in Turkish is the translation of the said instructions:—

(Signed) VASSIL SOKOLOSKI.

The copy of the above instructions has been declared to be in conformity with the original by Vassil Sokoloski, one of the chiefs of the movement, who declares that he signed this document.

July $\frac{14}{26}$, 1876.

(Here follows the seal of the Tribunal of Philippopoli.)

No. 221.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 4, 1876.

MR. BARING'S Report, which will be forwarded to your Lordship by the first post, proves above all doubt that the suppression of the insurrection in Bulgaria was accomplished, on the part of the Turks, with atrocities which I freely admit to exceed all that I was prepared to find.

The language which has been employed in reference to the proceedings of Her Majesty's Embassy as connected with these cruelties has, however, been such that your your Lordship will excuse me if I make some comments upon it.

It has been insinuated, if not directly stated, that Her Majesty's Embassy did nothing to prevent these atrocities, and, from a blind partizanship with the Turks, endeavoured to conceal their existence.

A fouler calumny was never invented.

From the first moment of the employment of Bashi-Bazouks and of the arming of the Mussulman populations, I protested against the measure and informed your Lordship of the excesses to which it was certain to give rise.

Accounts of such excesses quickly became current, and I stated that although I had no means of verifying the truth of any one of the cases cited, many of which have proved to be imaginary, I had not a doubt that the acts which I had foreseen had been carried on to a great extent.

Over and over again I called the attention of the Turkish Ministers to them, and sometimes did so in language much stronger than is common in diplomatic usage ; and I confess that I have felt a certain indignation at finding myself represented as personally responsible for them, as though Turkey was a British Colony and I was the Governor of it, instead of being an Ambassador accredited to an independent Government, having a right to protest against, but no power to prevent, any course that they chose to adopt.

An insurrection or civil war is everywhere accompanied by cruelties and abominable excesses, and this being tenfold the case in Oriental countries, where people are divided into antagonistic creeds and races, the responsibility and sin of those who incite a peaceful province to rise becomes doubly heavy, and they now endeavour to throw them upon others.

To the accusation of being a blind partizan of the Turks, I will only answer that my conduct here has never been guided by any sentimental affection for them, but by a firm determination to uphold the interests of Great Britain to the utmost of my power ; and that those interests are deeply engaged in preventing the disruption of the Turkish Empire is a conviction which I share in common with the most eminent statesmen who have directed our foreign policy, but which appears now to be abandoned by shallow politicians or persons who have allowed their feelings of revolted humanity to make them forget the capital interests involved in the question.

We may, and must, feel indignant at the needless and monstrous severity with which the Bulgarian insurrection was put down, but the necessity which exists for England to prevent changes from occurring here which would be most detrimental to ourselves, is not affected by the question whether it was 10,000 or 20,000 persons who perished in the suppression.

We have been upholding what we know to be a semi-civilized nation, liable under certain circumstances to be carried into fearful excesses; but the fact of this having just now been strikingly brought home to us all cannot be a sufficient reason for abandoning a policy which is the only one that can be followed with a due regard to our own interests.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 222.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a despatch from Acting Vice-Consul Calvert respecting the return to Philippopolis of the Christian Commission sent to investigate the Bulgarian atrocities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 222.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, August* 29, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Blacque Bey and Yovantcho Effendi, the Christian Commissioners sent by the Porte to investigate on the spot the atrocities committed by the Turkish irregular troops in this sandjak or district during the late insurrection, returned yesterday afternoon to Philippopoli from their journey among the villages.

I called this morning on the Commissioners, and was favoured by Blacque Bey, who, as far as I could judge, spoke with perfect fairness, with a detailed account of their investigations, of the principal points of which it may be useful that your Excellency should be informed ere the return of the present Commission to Constantinople.

Your Excellency will, of course, understand that I do not pretend to estimate the value of the opinion formed by these gentlemen.

The Christian Commissioners, one of whom, Yovantcho Effendi, is himself a Bulgarian, state themselves to be satisfied that deeds of great atrocity, on the part of the insurgents, marked the commencement of the rising in May last, and that cruelties were designedly committed by the insurgents, as being the means best calculated to bring on a general revolution throughout Bulgaria, by rendering the situation of the Christians, however peacefully inclined, so intolerable under the indiscriminate retaliation which the governing race were sure to attempt, as to force them, in self-defence, to rise. Among other instances of this, Blacque Bey mentioned to me that the Christian inhabitants of a village near Tournova related to him how at the beginning of the revolt the insurgents had seized a wealthy Turk of the locality, beloved by Christians and Moslems alike for his justice and benevolence, had buried him up to the waist in the earth and then stoned him to death.

In the reprisals that ensued the number of Christian victims, according to Blacque Bey, does not exceed 3,000, about half of whom were women and children, whereas of Turks some 400 had been killed. This estimate, your Excellency will bear in mind, relates to the Sandjak of Philippopoli alone, which does not include Tournova, Boyadjik, and other places where massacres also occurred.

Although not specially empowered to punish those guilty of these massacres, Blacque Bey took upon himself to order the arrest of Toussoun Bey, Achmet Agha, Ali Pehlivan, and other leaders of Bashi-Bazouks, who, after the re-establishment of comparative peace, returned to their respective homes, and sent for this purpose a company of forty zaptiehs, obtained, if I remember right, from the Governor of Tartar Bazardjik, under the command of Edhem Agha, a determined and trustworthy officer of police. Achmet Agha and, he believed, Ali Pehlivan likewise, are now in custody, and are, I understand, to be tried for their crimes.

A severe example made in the persons of these ruffians would, I have no doubt, even now produce a salutary effect, and serve to deter from fresh acts of lawlessness, which they would be likely to commit on their way back from Servia, the irregular forces now employed against that Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 223.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, September 8, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copies of two despatches addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at the Porte.

No. 1 relates to the reception here of the announcement of the accession of Sultan Hamid II, and No. 2 to the passage of Russians for Servia by the Danube.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 223.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, September 6, 1876.*

I HAD the honour to receive your Excellency's telegram of the 31st ultimo, informing me of the accession of Hamid, brother of Murad V, to the Throne of Turkey.

I have not replied hitherto, having been unable until now to give your Excellency a reliable statement of the general feeling here on the subject.

People in general here were silent for the first few days after the reception of the intelligence, but afterwards, I hear, they commenced their remarks on the subject.

The Bulgarians say very little, and appear to be very indifferent on the event.

The Mussulmans, however, being extremely apprehensive as to the state of affairs in the Montenegrin quarter, which they fear is favourable to the Christians and consequently against them, say that as the Sultan Hamid is known to be a true Mahommedan and full of energy, they hope that all will soon be put right, and that the Mussulmans will gain the upper hand where this is doubtful.

Beyond this, very little has been said; and the silent reception of the intelligence of the change in the Throne was a great contrast to the way in which the news of Sultan Murad's accession was received.

The Governor-General held an official reception, which was attended by all the Consuls, the Russian excepted; nor has this latter, I hear, offered any excuse for his absence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 223.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, September 6, 1876.*

DURING the past two or three weeks Russians have passed this by the Austrian Danube Steam Navigation Company's boats on their way to Servia, but hitherto in such insignificant numbers that I have not deemed the matter worthy of a report.

Yesterday, however, a boat passed this on which there were about 120, and I am informed by a gentleman who went on board that he found the captain in a state of great apprehension lest anything should give rise to an altercation between them and some Turkish employés and officers who were amongst the passengers.

The captain's fears arose from the bearing of the Russians, who were deriding the Turks and making use of offensive gesticulations.

Happily, however, nothing untoward occurred, and the steamer proceeded to her destination.

Between those that have passed through Roumania and up the Danube the number of Russians, officers and others, in Servia must now be pretty considerable; to give from this even an approximate estimate, however, is impossible; but from Belgrade this, I should think, would not be difficult.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 224.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1876.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 10th instant, reporting a conversation which had passed between M. Desprez and yourself respecting the conduct of the Porte with regard to the proposal for an armistice, and I have to inform your Excellency that I approve your language to M. Desprez on that occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 225.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 14, 1876, 12·35 P.M.

AT the same time that the Porte sends the answer to the proposal of mediation, it will inform our dragomans that orders have been sent to military commanders to suspend all hostilities. The Porte hopes that the Princes of Servia and Montenegro will be invited to give similar orders, and that thus the suspension of hostilities will be at once arrived at. The answer and these orders will probably be given to-day.

No. 226.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 14, 1876.

A MEMORANDUM of the Porte has been received in answer to proposals of mediation. It is a long document, tracing the origin of the war, and stating the conditions of peace which the Porte thinks itself entitled to expect. It states, however, that the Imperial Government submit these conditions entirely to the judgment and equitable appreciation of the Mediating Powers, and trust to them to weigh the considerations which have inspired these conditions as the means of preventing the recurrence of the existing calamities, and confide in their wisdom and equity. With regard to Montenegro, "on s'en tiendra" to the *status quo ante*. As soon as the Powers have expressed their judgment on the conditions, the Porte will give orders to stop hostilities within twenty-four hours, and friendly relations will be resumed with the two Principalities. In contradiction, however, with this sentence in the Memorandum, the Porte has informed the Dragomans of all the Embassies that, without waiting for the opinion of the Powers, the orders for the cessation of hostilities will be sent to-night or to-morrow morning. The demand of the Powers being thus practically complied with, it is hoped that they will induce the Princes of Servia and Montenegro to give corresponding orders to their military authorities.

No. 227.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1876, 5·45 P.M.

IS there any truth in the following report which appears in the "Daily News" of to-day, dated from Odessa?—

"The Turkish population of Tatar-Bazardjik and Philippopolis have adopted an increasingly-threatening attitude towards the Bulgarians, saying that before many days have passed there will be a further reduction of the population. The Mussulmen are armed; the Christians have been disarmed. Sir H. Elliot has been informed of the fact by me."

No. 228.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—Received September 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 14, 1876.

THE Servian Foreign Minister says that the Servian Government, in applying to the Powers, had in view a *bonâ fide* peace, and an armistice as leading directly to it; he adds that every delay causes a larger tract of country to be turned into a desert, this being the result of the Turkish advance. The Servian Agent at Vienna has spoken to the Foreign Minister in this sense.

The decision of Her Majesty's Government is most anxiously awaited here.

No. 229.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, I have to inform your Excellency that you may communicate to the Porte the terms which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, might properly form the basis of a pacification, exercising your own discretion whether you do so or not.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 230.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me on the 8th instant, and stated that the news from the seat of war announced that military operations on the Morava were being pushed on with extraordinary vigour by the Turkish Generals, and that the agressive movement against the Principality of Montenegro had commenced from two sides simultaneously.

On the 4th of this month Moukhtar Pasha had penetrated Montenegrin territory, and the presence of his troops was marked by the burning of many villages.

These facts were taking place in the face of the mediation offered by the whole of Europe with a view of obtaining an armistice.

Such proceedings caused great astonishment to the Italian Government. The Porte could take the responsibility of refusing those measures, but without taking any notice of them it perpetrated at the seat of war acts to which the Italian Government could not remain indifferent, and which force them to call the attention of the Sublime Porte to the consequences of its conduct. The Italian Government sees the moment approaching when it will be its duty to free itself from all responsibility in regard to the consequences which such a line of conduct might bring on.

His Excellency expressed his hope that the joint efforts of the British and Italian Governments would contribute efficaciously to put an end to a state of things which became daily more menacing to the peace of Europe.

The influence of the English Cabinet, he said, could powerfully aid in bringing about a pacification so eagerly wished for.

I informed General Menabrea that we had ourselves sent a message to Constantinople on the 6th instant to much the same effect. Her Majesty's Ambassador had been instructed to warn the Turkish Minister of the extreme gravity of the situation, and to state that if the proposal for an armistice is rejected, Her Majesty's Government could do nothing more to prevent the ruin which the refusal will bring upon the Turkish Empire. I had added that as soon as the armistice was accepted, we should be ready to proceed at once to the discussion of terms of peace.

I stated to his Excellency that I did not think that it would be possible to word our advice more strongly, but that I would inform Sir H. Elliot by telegraph that his Italian colleague had similar instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 231.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 14, 1876

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram stating that he was unofficially informed that the Council had approved of his proposed modifications of the answer to be given to the Powers, I repeated to-day that your Lordship had not yet expressed an opinion upon it; and I asked Count Andrassy whether, if this should prove correct, and if Her Majesty's Government were disposed to accept the answer, Austro-Hungary would do so.

Count Andrassy said that he could not make such a promise, as he had yesterday accepted the proposal of Russia to insist on an unconditional armistice; and besides, as the Powers had already declared the greater part of the proposals of the Porte to be inadmissible, he did not see how they could now agree even to the modified conditions which the Porte wishes to attach to its assent to an armistice.

He said that Russia wishes an armistice with protracted Conferences afterwards; but he has agreed to insist on an unconditional one, on the understanding that the Powers will immediately decide on the conditions of peace to be submitted to the Porte. "If the Porte grant an armistice," he said, "she may then state her views as to the conditions of peace. The Powers will accept or reject them and submit to her those which they have agreed should be adopted."

With respect to these conditions, his Excellency said he will certainly not assent to those suggested by your Lordship, repeating his former observations on the impracticability of autonomy and the impossibility of its existing without the entire disintegration of the Empire.

I still think, however, that if England, France, and Italy accepted the modified answer, the other Powers could hardly risk a continuance of the war by rejecting it.

No. 232.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September* 14, 1876, 7·30 P.M.

THE Russian Ambassador informs me that he communicated to Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday your Lordship's proposal of a basis of pacification which he had received from Livadia. He informed Minister that the Russian Government accepted your Lordship's proposal, and the Minister also expressed his assent.

No. 233.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 15.)

My Lord, *Rome, September* 11, 1876.

ON the 2nd instant I had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram, dated the previous day, informing me that you had instructed Sir Henry Elliot to propose at once to the Turkish Government an armistice of not less than a month's duration, which should include all the combatants.

As the instruction concluded by desiring his Excellency to ask for the support of his colleagues, I communicated the substance of it immediately to M. Melegari, and requested his Excellency to telegraph to Signor Corti, Italian Minister at Constantinople, to support Sir Henry Elliot in his proposal to the Porte.

M. Melegari was much pleased at your Lordship having sent definite instruction to ask at once for an armistice, and said that he would telegraph to Signor Corti to support Sir Henry Elliot officially.

On the 7th instant I had the honour to receive a copy of the instructions which your Lordship addressed to Sir Henry on learning that the Porte hesitated to accede to his demand, and on the same afternoon M. Melegari stated to me that he had telegraphed to Signor Corti to say that it would be an act of madness on the part of the Turkish Government to refuse the armistice, and that the Italian Government rejected all responsibility for the consequences. I stated that your Lordship had urged the Porte to yield in the most strenuous manner, but I did not inform his Excellency of the words of your Lordship's instructions.

I learn to-day by a telegram from your Lordship that you have communicated those instructions to General Menabrea, and M. Melegari has stated to me this afternoon that it was impossible to do more towards attempting to bring the Porte to reason than had been done by your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 234.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 15.)

My Lord, *Rome, September* 11, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive from your Lordship this morning a repetition of a telegram from Sir H. Elliot dated yesterday, stating the intention of the Turkish Government to refuse the demand for an armistice and giving the conditions of peace which they hope to obtain.

In the course of the afternoon I saw M. Melegari. His Excellency had received like intelligence as to the intended refusal of the Porte to accede to the request of the Powers, but he was not aware of the terms of peace proposed. I therefore communicated them to him as they are stated in Sir H. Elliot's telegram. His Excellency said that he could not, of course, give an authoritative opinion off-hand with regard to them, but that his impression was that they were quite inadmissible. They struck him as being both unsatisfactory as far as they went and lamentably insufficient. No mention was made either of Montenegro or of the Provinces in insurrection, and certain conditions with regard to Servia, such as the occupation of fortresses, could not be listened to. He said that he proposed to insist upon a "*statu quo* amélioré," and that these proposals had no elements of that nature to recommend them.

His Excellency read to me a telegram from M. Durando, Italian Consul at Ragusa, who has been sent on special service to Cettigné. The telegram was dated yesterday, and stated that the Prince of Montenegro hearing from Belgrade that the Porte refused to grant an armistice, had addressed a note to the Representatives of the Powers containing an appeal to them to arrest the military movements of the Porte which were at present being executed with even greater ruthlessness than hitherto, and concluding by asking for a Congress at which the future condition of Montenegro should be taken into consideration. His Excellency stated that this Note would no doubt form the subject of inter-communication betweeu the Powers hereafter, but that at present he considered it unnecessary to send any reply, and that he thought that a proposal for a Congress ought not to come from Montenegro when the Six Powers were unanimous in their desire to obtain a satisfactory peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 235.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 15.)

(Extract.) *Paris, September* 15, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes came back to Paris last night, and I had this morning some conversation with him on the present state of the Eastern question.

He had received, by telegraph from St. Petersburgh and from the French Ambassador in London, statements, more or less exact, of the terms of pacification suggested by Her Majesty's Government.

I recited those terms to him precisely as they are stated in your Lordship's telegram to Sir Henry Elliot of the 11th of this month.

He expressed a general approval of them and said that he saw, with great satisfaction, the step taken by Her Majesty's Government in putting them forward.

In the telegram he had received from St. Petersburgh, it was (it seemed) state, that your Lordship contemplated some eventual addition to the territory of Montenegro but had reserved this point for future discussion.

The Duke appeared to be himself in favour of giving Montenegro such an extension

of territory as would give the inhabitants room to breathe and enable them to betake themselves to commercial and industrial pursuits. He observed, too, that any additions to their territory would be more open to attack than the mountainous region which now constituted the whole country, and would, in consequence, by rendering them more vulnerable, make them also more prudent.

The Duke discussed theoretically the question as to what steps should be taken if the Porte persisted in rejecting the armistice, and in requiring inadmissible conditions of peace. He appeared rather to favour the idea of withdrawing simultaneously the Ambassadors of the Great Powers from Constantinople, and leaving only Chargés d'Affaires there. He said that he presumed that neither the French nor the English Government would be prepared to send troops either to protect Turkey or to coerce Turkey; and this being the case, the most effectual means which remained would, he thought, be for them to manifest their displeasure and throw off responsibility of removing their Ambassadors.

The Duke went on to say that his apprehensions as to the conduct of the Porte had been not a little relieved by a telegram which had been sent to him at 9 o'clock last night by M. de Bourgoing, the French Ambassador. It appeared that instead of sending, as was at first intended, a distinct refusal of the armistice, and a peremptory statement of the conditions of peace, the Porte had now determined simply to communicate to the Ambassadors the terms it proposed, and say that it submitted them to the appreciation of the Powers, and would acquiesce in the decision upon them to which the Powers might come. The Porte had, moreover, resolved to announce that while unable to consent to an immediate armistice, it would at once give orders to the Commanders of its principal armies to keep on the defensive. The Porte had, according to M. de Bourgoing's telegram, promised to make the communication to the Ambassadors to-day.

The Duc Decazes observed that it was only to the principal armies that the order to keep on the defensive was to be given; that he did not quite understand what this meant; and that it must depend so entirely upon the officers in the field to decide upon what were to be held offensive and what defensive operations, that the order the Porte proposed to give was a very different thing from an armistice.

It remained to be seen what communication the Porte would actually make to the Ambassadors.

For his own part, the Duke said in conclusion, he should continue to feel no little anxiety till a substantial armistice was actually established; but, nevertheless, he had much better hopes since he had received M. de Bourgoing's telegram announcing the change in the counsels of the Porte.

I said that this change was entirely due to the influence of Sir Henry Elliot.

No. 236.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 15, 1876, 11·45 P.M.

THE following are the conditions submitted by the Porte to the appreciation of the Powers:—

1. Prince of Servia to pay homage in person to the Sultan at Constantinople.

2. The four fortresses given into the keeping of Servia by Firman to be re-occupied by Turkish troops.

3. The militia to be abolished, and the military force to be maintained in the Principality not to exceed 10,000 men and two batteries of artillery.

4. In accordance with the stipulations of the Firman, Servia to send back emigrants from the border Provinces; and, with the exception of the fortresses which existed in Servia *ab antiquo*, all fortifications subsequently constructed to be completely destroyed.

5. If Servia is unable to pay the indemnity, the amount of which is to be hereafter determined, the tribute now paid by the Principality to be increased by the interest on the sum represented by the indemnity.

6. The Turkish Government to have the right of making and working, either through its agents or by a Turkish Company, the railway which is to join Belgrade with the Turkish line.

I have sent above to Belgrade.

No. 237.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 15, 1876, 1·20 P.M.*

IT is true that "Daily News" Correspondent informed me of intended Mahometan rising in districts of Philippopoli and Tatar Bazardjik, and I immediately communicated the information to the Porte, which has no knowledge of there being any danger. M. Calvert's last despatches make no mention of apprehension being felt. The principal chiefs of the Bashi-Bazouks were upon the report of the Turkish Commissioners ordered to be arrested, and it was expected that this would produce a salutary effect.

No. 238.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 15, 1876.*

IN my despatch of the 11th instant I stated the terms which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, might properly form the basis of a pacification of Turkey. But your Excellency will clearly understand that, by the phrase "local or administrative autonomy," as applied to Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is no question raised of the creation of a tributary State, and that nothing more is intended by Her Majesty's Government than a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 239.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15, 1·23 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 15, 1876, 12·53 P.M.*

FROM the language of Count Andrassy yesterday and from that of the Russian Ambassador, Russia appears decided to insist on an armistice being imposed on the Porte by the fiat of the Powers. Count Andrassy said he had agreed to support this Russian view against his own opinion that the armistice and the peace should form one question, because he understood all the other Powers had adopted it.

No. 240.

Sir A Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received September 15, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 15, 4 P.M.*

THE substance of the answer of the Porte having been received from Count Zichy, he has been instructed to state that its proposals are inadmissible, and to urge the Porte to grant an armistice immediately, after which the Powers will be ready to consider any proposals it may put forward.

No. 241.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 15, 1876, 4·20 P.M.*

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated to-day a telegram to Count Andrassy, by order of his Government, remonstrating against the transport of Russian officers and soldiers on Austrian steamers, and threatening that, if it is not stopped, such persons will be arrested on board the vessels on their touching at Turkish ports. Count Andrassy, I understand, answered that steamers could not refuse to carry passengers with passports from their Government, and that the remonstrance of the Porte should, therefore, have been addressed to the Russian, and not to the Austro-Hungarian Government.

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* Substance telegraphed, and repeated to other Embassies.

† Repeated to Embassies.

No. 242.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 15, 1876, 4·25 P.M.

I HAVE represented strongly to the Porte the necessity of taking efficient measures to prevent Bashi-Bazouks from carrying on depredations during suspension of hostilities. I am endeavouring to obtain their entire withdrawal from army, which is the only way by which such excesses will be prevented, and to have them disarmed before they are sent back.

No. 243.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 15, 1876, 6·20 P.M.

I HAVE received with much satisfaction news that Porte has ordered suspension of hostilities.

I have telegraphed to Belgrade to express hope that similar orders will be given to Servian army. I will endeavour to communicate in same sense with Montenegro.

No. 244.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 15, 1876, 6·25 P.M.

PORTE informs Sir H. Elliot that orders are given to Turkish Commanders to suspend hostilities. The Servian Government having asked for armistice, I presume that similar orders will at once be given to their Commanders. If necessary, press on Servian Government the expediency of so doing.

No. 245.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 15, 1876, 6·30 P.M.

PORTE informs Sir H. Elliot that orders are given to Turkish Commanders to suspend hostilities. It would be well that similar instructions should be given by the Montenegrin Government. We have no Representative in Montenegro. Ask Italian to speak in this sense.

No. 246.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September* 16, 1876.

GERMAN Government understand that by the phrase "local or administrative autonomy," as applied by your Lordship to Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is no question of creation of tributary State or States.

No. 247.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.†

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 16, 1876.

IT is right that I should inform your Excellency that whilst supporting the proposal for a suspension of hostilities, it must not be considered that Her Majesty's Government acquiesce in the terms of peace proposed by the Porte. As your Excellency will have seen by my previous despatches some of these terms are in their opinion quite inadmissible, and it would therefore be well that your Excellency should make this clear to the Porte in any communication you may have to make to them or to your colleagues.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* Repeated to Embassies. † Substance telegraphed.

No. 248.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 16, 1876.

I THINK it right to inform you that whilst supporting the proposal for a suspension of hostilities, it must not be considered that Her Majesty's Government acquiesce in the terms of peace proposed by the Porte.

Some of these terms are in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government quite inadmissible, nor are they likely to be more favourably regarded by other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 249.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 16, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me two telegrams which he had received from his Government.

In the first of these Prince Gortchakow states that the reply which the Porte has made to the demand for an armistice is quite inadmissible, and that he doubts not that the Great Powers will assume in regard to it an energetic attitude such as their dignity requires.

The second telegram was to express the opinion of the Russian Government that as they had accepted the terms of peace proposed by me, a Conference was no longer needed, provided the other Powers also adhered to these terms. The Russian Government could not however tolerate the postponement of the armistice, which must be agreed to immediately and unconditionally.

Count Schouvaloff repeated to me the substance of a third telegram to the effect that if Her Majesty's Government decided on breaking off diplomatic relations with the Porte in consequence of the refusal of an armistice, Russia was prepared to join in that step.

I made Count Schouvaloff acquainted with the intimation which had been given by the Porte to the Embassies of the Great Powers at Constantinople, that orders had already been sent unconditionally to the Commanders of the Turkish forces to suspend hostilities. I said that I was inclined to accept the suspension of hostilities so announced as a practical compliance with our demand for an armistice; and to propose at once to negotiate conditions of peace on the basis indicated in my conversation with His Excellency on the 13th instant.

The conditions set forth by the Porte as a basis of negotiation seemed to me, I said, to be inadmissible.

I told Count Schouvaloff, however, that I could not act upon my proposal till I hearp whether the course proposed was accepted by his Government. It was agreed that he should consult Prince Gortchakow at once by telegraph, and that I should see him again on Monday.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 250.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 16, 1876.

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and communicated to me the terms proposed by his Government as a basis of discussion for the conclusion of a peace. As these have been already reported by your Excellency by telegraph, I need not here repeat them.

I told Musurus Pasha that some of the stipulations involved such material changes in the position of Servia that they could not be regarded as admissible by Her Majesty's Government, nor were they likely to be entertained, so far as I had the means of judging, by the other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Substance telegraphed.

No. 251.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 16, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and told me that his Government heard that I had sounded Prince Gortchakow as to the following points:—

1. That the Powers should insist in the first place upon an armistice pure and simple without the previous arrangement of a basis of peace.

2. That the *status quo ante bellum* should be maintained as regards Servia and Montenegro, without requiring for the moment any territorial concessions for Montenegro, but that these should be advised subsequently in the course of discussion.

3. That local autonomy should be insisted on for Bosnia and Herzegovina, as also for Bulgaria, but without political separation from Turkey.

The Italian Government understood that the Russian Government made no objection to these principles, but considered that it would not be sufficient to couch them in the form of advice to Turkey, but that they must be imposed upon the Porte by the unanimous will of the great Powers.

General Menabrea said that Italy was ready to adhere to the proposals of England, but that it ought to be understood that the unanimous will of the great Powers, which the Russian Cabinet desired, would be imposed on Turkey only by the moral coercion which such unanimity must of necessity exercise.

I told General Menabrea in reply that the statement which he had made to me was generally accurate, but that there were one or two details which I wished to explain.

The first point, namely, that Her Majesty's Government intended to press for an immediate armistice, had been correctly reported to his Government, but in Prince Gortchakow's version it seemed to imply a kind of menace which I had not intended. As to the second point, I had said nothing about future territorial concessions to Montenegro, except that in my personal judgment they might not be unwise; but I had not intended them to form part of the negotiations. In regard to the third point, I had carefully explained that "local autonomy," as I understood it, was not to be construed as meaning a condition of independence like that of Servia or Roumania, but rather a system under which the people of the country should have a voice in the management of their own affairs, and reasonable security against arbitrary acts on the part of the Administration.

I had said nothing, I added, as to the course to be taken by the Powers in the event of these concessions being refused by the Porte, but I agreed with the Italian Government in disclaiming the use of any but moral coercion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 252.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 16, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 16, 1876.

I ASKED Baron Orczy to-day whether the telegram from the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople, which he had read to me yesterday, reporting the answer of the Porte, had not also mentioned that immediate orders would be given to suspend hostilities; he answered that it spoke of the Turkish Commanders being instructed not to take the offensive, but that this had not been considered as a regular suspension of hostilities. I therefore read, and left with him, the text of Sir H. Elliot's statement on this subject; and after informing him of the steps which your Lordship had taken at Belgrade, I expressed a hope that similar representations would be sent by Count Andrassy to the Servian Government, and also to Cettigné.

Count Andrassy was not at the Ministry, but Baron Orczy hoped that when his Excellency was made acquainted with my communication, he would send instructions on the subject as I had suggested.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 253.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 16, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 16, 1876.

HAVING been asked yesterday to communicate to Count Andrassy, confidentially, the precise terms which you had communicated to Sir H. Elliot, and the Russian Ambassador in London, as what seemed to Her Majesty's Government might be a proper base for pacification, I gave Baron Orczy to-day a note of them.

I explained to him at the same time the sense which Her Majesty's Government attach to autonomy, as stated in your telegram of yesterday on this subject.

No. 254.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 16, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 16, 1876, 11·45 P.M.

ORDERS for the suspension of hostilities were sent yesterday.

Under instructions from Count Andrassy, and with a view to obviate any bad consequences from the refusal contained in the answer of the Porte to accept mediation for an armistice, the Austrian Ambassador has obtained from the Porte a declaration, which he has been authorised also to communicate to his colleagues.

It runs as follows:—

"The Imperial Government, in order to forestall the wishes which have been conveyed to them, have given confidential orders to all their military commanders to remain strictly on the defensive, as long as they are not attacked by the enemy's forces, up to the 25th instant."

No. 255.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 17.)

My Lord, *Paris, September* 16, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes came to me this morning, and told me that he had received yesterday from the French Ambassador at Constantinople a telegraphic summary of the Memorandum sent by the Porte in answer to the request of the Six Powers for an armistice. Moreover the greater part of it had (he said) been read to him by Nasri Bey, the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires, who had received it by telegraph *in extenso* from his Government.

The Duke went on to say that the impression made upon him by the document had been far from favourable, and that he had not concealed this from Nasri Bey.

In the first place, he had observed, the Memorandum began by distinctly refusing the armistice for which the Powers asked.

To this Nasri Bey had replied that nevertheless the Porte had in fact given orders to its officers which would produce a state of things equivalent to an armistice.

The Duke had rejoined that on the one hand, the orders to the Turkish generals did not appear to have been actually given when the Memorandum had been sent to the Ambassadors; on the other hand, so far from establishing an armistice, these orders did not even provide positively for a suspension of hostilities; they merely enjoined the Turkish generals to keep on the defensive.

The Duke added that he had been unable to refrain from pointing out to Nasri Bey the extreme impolicy of the course pursued by the Turkish Ministers. If they intended practically to establish an armistice, why did they, in their official answer, reject the request of the Powers in a manner sure to give offence? What was the value of a mere verbal message to the Ambassadors that orders would be sent to the Generals to keep on the defensive? If the request of the Powers was in effect granted, what advantage was gained by the formal and disrespectful refusal to grant it?

Nasri Bey had upon this remarked that the Porte had submitted its conditions of peace unreservedly to the decision of the Powers, and had promised to arrest hostilities within twenty-four hours after being made acquainted with their opinion.

The Duke had answered this by observing that he reserved his official answer for the present, but that speaking "academically" he would point out that if this was to be taken literally, his course would be very simple; he should simply say, "the conditions of peace which you propose are one and all wholly inadmissible and unacceptable; and now, having communicated to you my decided opinion, I summon you to arrest hostilities within twenty-four hours."

* Repeated to Embassies.

The Duke having thus concluded his account of his conversation with the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires, I asked him whether he was certain that he had been correct in the description he had given of the orders to be sent to the Turkish Generals.

He answered that, undoubtedly the French Ambassador's telegram stated that the orders would direct the Generals to "keep on the defensive," and that they had not yet been actually issued. He added that the Ambassador had concluded his telegram by saying that he should be informed when the orders were actually given, and that he would immediately inform the French Government. Up to the time, however, at which we were speaking (11 A.M.) the Duke had received no further telegram from him.

I said that, from the telegram which your Lordship had received from Sir Henry Elliot, it appeared that the orders were to be for a cessation of hostilities; and I added that your Lordship had immediately sent off three telegrams, one to Belgrade stating this, and recommending that similar orders should be given to the Servian armies; a second to Constantinople, saying that you had sent this communication to Servia, and that you would endeavour to communicate with Montenegro in the same sense; the third to Rome, asking the Italian Government to address the Prince of Montenegro in this sense.

The Duke said that the result of the steps taken by your Lordship would, he trusted, be to secure the establishment of an armistice *de facto*. If the orders sent by the Porte were not already sufficient, it would hardly delay making them so, when it learned that, in accordance with its request, and with the terms of its communication to Her Majesty's Ambassador, you had recommended a cessation of hostilities to Servia and Montenegro.

He observed, however, that, although this might be satisfactory for the moment, he did not think that it would content the Government of Russia, which would demand a formal acceptance of the armistice. He added that, in fact, the cessation of hostilities could not be considered as secure, unless it were guaranteed by a regular armistice concluded in due form.

As to the conditions of peace put forward in the Turkish Memorandum, the Duc Decazes said, generally, that they appeared to him to be inadmissible, and he observed, in particular, that the fourth looked very like a demand that Servia should surrender political refugees to the Porte.

This fourth condition provides, as your Lordship will remember, that emigrants into Servia from the border provinces are to be sent back.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 256.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 17.)

My Lord, *Paris, September* 16, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes told me this morning that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires had communicated to him yesterday two telegrams which he had received from Livadia, at which place the Emperor Alexander and Prince Gortchakow were staying.

The first seemed, the Duke said, to have been sent off when the refusal of the Porte to agree to the armistice had been foreseen, but before the Turkish Memorandum had been actually received.

It stated that if the armistice should be refused the Russian Government would propose that the course to be taken by the Powers should be suggested by England, by whom the initiative in bringing forward the demand for the armistice had been taken. It went on to say that Russia would entirely concur if England should suggest that the Ambassadors of the Powers should be recalled from Constantinople, and the British fleet withdrawn from Besika Bay.

The Duke told me that he had observed to the Chargé d'Affaires that he did not think the second of these two steps followed naturally from the first; on the contrary, that he thought the withdrawal of the Ambassadors would render it the more necessary to keep the fleet at hand; that for his own part, if he recalled his Ambassador, he should be inclined to place his countrymen under the protection of the British fleet until he sent a fleet of his own.

The second telegram, communicated to him by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, had, the Duke said, been dispatched on the terms of the Turkish Memorandum becoming known at Livadia.

It stated that the Turkish answer exceeded in insolence all that could be expected,

and it expressed the hope that the Powers would take up a firm attitude, and one consistent with their dignity.

The Duc Decazes said, in conclusion, that the Chargé d'Affaires had also informed him that Russia regarded the Turkish answer as an affront, and that she separated entirely the question of the Turkish conditions of peace from that of the armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed), LYONS.

No. 257.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 17, 1876.

THE Porte having notified in writing a suspension of hostilities till 25th instant, the Austro-Hungarian Agents at Belgrade and Cettigné have been instructed to recommend a similar measure to Servia and Montenegro.

I am also informed that Count Andrassy is about to submit to the Powers a draft of an answer to the Porte, stating the terms which they recommend as the basis of a pacification.

It is hoped, if the Powers have not agreed upon these terms so as to be able to submit them to the Porte before the 25th instant, that it may be induced by the Representatives at Constantinople to extend the suspension of hostilities until the views of the Powers are communicated to it.

No. 258.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 17.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 17, 1876.

MR. MONSON states, in a despatch I transmit to you to-day, that it is feared in Dalmatia that peace between the Principalities and Turkey would not terminate the insurrection, but Count Andrassy said to me two days ago that the tranquillity of the Herzegovina could be secured by a trifling cession of territory to Montenegro.

No. 259.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 17, 1876.

THE Servian Government, to whom I have communicated the orders issued by the Porte to her military commanders, have assured me that similar instructions to Servian commanders were to be sent this morning; they have been induced to do so in consequence of my representations and the reliable information which I have conveyed, and therefore I am most anxious that no occasion of a misunderstanding should arise. It might therefore be desirable that the Turkish Commander-in-chief should acquaint Servian General of his instructions, and that both sides should pledge themselves not to resume hostilities without previous notice.

No. 260.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 17, 1876, 11 A.M.

WITH reference to the telegram from Mr. Malet, repeated by your Lordship yesterday, reporting that the Italian Government consider that as Russia is determined to accept nothing but the armistice, the orders of the Porte to stop hostilities are not sufficient, I would point out to your Lordship that the proposal made to the Porte was not for an armistice, but for a suspension of hostilities, which has been obtained.

Care was taken here to adopt the latter expression, for which the Duc Decazes had declared a strong preference to Lord Lyons.

* Repeated to Embassies.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires made no great objection, but said his Governmen considered that it ought to be for three months.

No. 261.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 17, 1876, 4 P.M.

IN reply to my inquiries as to alleged outrages by Turkish troops in Servia, Sir Arnold Kemball telegraphs that there can be no truth whatever in reports of outrages on women or children by Turkish troops, because the villages are invariably found quite deserted. Some helpless men and women who had been abandoned were kindly treated and sent to Nisch.

Although he cannot answer for the deeds of the Circassians, who lift cattle in face of the enemy's force, he has no reason to believe that outrages of the nature referred to have been committed by them.

No. 262.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 5*, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive this day your Lordship's telegram of yesterday respecting one from Sir H. Elliot, in which Her Majesty's Ambassador repeated the objections of the Porte to an armistice, and "apprehended that there would be great difficulty in obtaining the assent of the Porte unless assurances could be given as to the conditions of peace that will be supported by the Powers." His Excellency further stated that "matters might be facilitated if a peace with Servia could be treated separately from that with Montenegro."

It is my duty to inform your Lordship that if the proposal of an armistice, supported by all the Powers, should be rejected by the Porte, public opinion in this country, already over-excited, will be so exasperated that I entertain fears that the Imperial Government will be no longer able to resist the popular current, and that they will be forced to intervene openly in favour of Servia.

Under these circumstances it is apparent that the Porte, if it should unadvisedly refuse to accede to an armistice, will risk far more danger than any possible disadvantages which could result from a suspension of hostilities.

I cannot but imagine that if the Porte were aware of the position of affairs, it would from prudence alone be induced to agree to an armistice, and it might be further encouraged in this course if assured that an European Conference would meet immediately on the suspension of hostilities to bring about a peace on the basis of the *status quo* territorial.

It appears to me also that the Porte would incur a grave responsibility in exacting the continuation of hostilities, and thus causing a useless loss of life during the preliminary negotiations for peace.

I venture also to suggest that the claim which may be exacted by the Porte (and not unjustly) from Servia for a war indemnity, might be favourably entertained by all parties, if it were agreed that it should be devoted to rebuild the villages burnt by the invading army, and thus rehabilitate the houseless population before the approaching cold season.

In such a case the money should be intrusted to an International Commission, who should be charged with the execution of that duty.

I may further inform your Lordship, that from expressions which have fallen from Prince Gortchakow, I am convinced that Russia will not assent to a peace being concluded with Servia separately from Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 263.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 9*, 1876.

THE Imperial Government, in as far as regards foreign affairs, is now at Livadia, and M. de Giers, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, will assume no responsibility

in expressing any opinion, and great delay is occasioned in referring to Prince Gortchakow,

The foreign despatches and telegrams are addressed direct to Livadia, and are only received here by post some days later. Consequently M. de Giers is without official information of passing events, and is only informed of the instructions sent by Prince Gortchakow many days after their transmission.

The French, German, and Austrian Ambassadors have consequently taken leave of absence, and do not intend returning here until the presence of the Emperor and Prince Gortchakow will render it desirable for them to do so.

I have therefore to suggest that any pressing question which your Lordship may have to address to the Imperial Government should be forwarded direct by telegraph to Prince Gortchakow through the Russian Ambassador in London.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 264.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 10, 1876.

I AM informed that a popular demonstration took place yesterday at Moscow in favour of the Servians, which caused some anxiety to the local authorities.

It appears that the Moscow enthusiasts, supported by the Liberal element which distinguishes that city from St. Petersburgh, determined to profit of the opportunity of the departure of a chapel for the Servian army (which had been requested by General Tchernaeiff) to make a formidable demonstration in favour of the Servians.

Accordingly 10,000 people assembled at the railway-station to witness the departure of the person charged with the transport of the chapel, and also with the delivery of a banner for the Servian army, which had been worked by the ladies of Moscow.

They afterwards proceeded in procession to the Governor's house, and, after singing a religious hymn, separated quietly, without any disorder having taken place.

No. 265.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 11, 1876.

M. DE GIERS communicated to me to-day a telegram he had just received from the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, stating that M. Jonine, the Russian Consul-General at Ragusa, had telegraphed to Prince Gortchakow yesterday from Danilograd, the head-quarters of the Prince of Montenegro, as follows:—

"That the Prince of Montenegro, on receiving intelligence from Servia that the Porte rejected the proposal for an armistice, and would submit its own conditions of peace, hostilities being continued, had addressed a note to the Consuls of the Powers accredited to him to request their respective Governments to consider an armistice as an indispensable prelude to peace."

His Highness stated that, as the conditions of peace referred to by the Porte will probably be unacceptable, and as, moreover, the military position of Montenegro was such as not authorizing the dictation of Peace by the Porte, he requests the Six Powers to address a formal demand to the Porte to impose an armistice, and to convoke immediately a Conference to decide, in concert with the Principalities and with Turkey on the question of peace and the future position of the Christian population in Turkey.

The Prince expresses a hope that the Powers will take his request into consideration and bring about a speedy solution.

This appeal of the Prince of Montenegro casts a serious responsibility on the Powers to whom it is addressed, and cannot, therefore, be unheeded by them.

It is in conformity with the wishes expressed by Prince Gortchakow, and I imagine that the initiative of this step is due to the Russian Consul-General, acting probably in accordance with instructions from his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 266.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 12, 1876.

THE irrevocable intention of the Porte to refuse the armistice proposed by the Six Powers is a matter of serious gravity, and will produce a very deep impression on the Emperor Alexander and Prince Gortchakow.

I have on various occasions represented to your Lordship the urgency and importance of the collective action of the Powers, and I venture to submit to your Lordship the danger of isolated action on the part of any of the Powers in consequence of the refusal of the Porte to agree to the proposed armistice.

But most of all is this isolated action of Russia to be feared.

Although the Emperor Alexander has given proof of his desire to maintain peace, and however anxious the Imperial Government may be to abstain from any open intervention in the war now going on in the East, still the daily-increasing excitement of the nation in favour of the Servians is such that if the Porte persistently refuses to accept the counsels of Europe, I very much fear that the Imperial Government will be unable to resist the popular current, and that they may be forced into a war which they would gladly avoid.

It is on these grounds and impressed by these fears that I venture to express to your Lordship my conviction that, unless the Six Powers address a collective *ultimatum* to the Porte, demanding an immediate and unconditional suspension of hostilities under a threat that in case of refusal they would suspend diplomatic relations, it may be feared that an isolated action of a peremptory nature may be taken by Russia, which may lead to graver complications.

England has the lead, and there is no doubt that she would be supported by the other Powers in any energetic action for a cessation of hostilities. Her influence would be of use in restraining, as it would also be in guiding, Europe; and the appeal of the Prince of Montenegro for European action affords an opportunity for a renewed energetic and collective action.

I have ventured thus freely to express my opinion to your Lordship, actuated solely by a sense of the gravity of the crisis, and of the danger which would result from any isolated action on the part of Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 267.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September* 4, 1876.

ON the 31st ultimo, I addfessed to your Lordship a telegram worded as follows:—

"Prince Hamid has been publicly proclaimed here, in room of Sultan Murad, with due ceremonies and without excitement."

The announcement of Sultan Murad's dethronement and Sultan Hamid's accession was made by the authorities here in the afternoon of the 31st ultimo, under salutes fired from the town fortress and Ottoman ships-of-war in the harbour.

The Governor-General sent a circular to the foreign Consuls, and to the principal functionaries and heads of the non-Mahommedan communities, announcing the event.

The foreign ships-of-war were also officially informed by the Egyptian Admiral, the senior Ottoman naval officer on this station.

The public buildings, the foreign Consulates and ships-of-war, with the exception of the Russian and German, I believe, were illuminated during three nights.

The Consuls called in uniform on the Governor-General, and offered their congratulations, and the Chiefs of the communities waited on his Excellency, and requested him to telegraph to the Porte their expressions of homage and devotion to Sultan Hamid.

There were no signs of public excitement or enthusiasm; perfect order and tranquillity prevail in the town, and the inhabitants seem to behold the new order of things with apathy and indifference.

Mr. Vice-Consul Suter also reports, under date 31st ultimo, that "the announcement of Sultan Hamid's accession having been looked forward to for some time in Thessaly, does not seem to create so far any remarkable impression in this province."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 268.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my despatch of the 4th instant to Sir Henry Elliot, with copies of its three inclosures relative to the dismissal of Bashi-Bazouks from the army operating in Servia, the barbarous system of warfare which is persevered in by the belligerents, and the discontent which is gathering in the interior from the enforcement of the Government requisition for transport horses for the Turkish troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 268.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, September* 4, 1876.

I LEARN from Monastir that large numbers of Bashi-Bazouks, who had been sent to the front from the districts of Resna, Ochrida, Florina, and Perlepe, in the Vilayet of Monastir, have returned to their homes. Several of the Salonica volunteers have also come back from the seat of war, and many more are expected.

I am told, but cannot say how far it is true, that the commanding officers have dismissed many of these volunteers owing to their want of discipline and order, and unfitness for service in the field.

Another correspondent, writing to me from the interior, states that he had seen and conversed with Albanian Bashi-Bazouks, and loot was the one idea they had of going to the war.

In case of peace being made with Servia it will require a great deal of care and judgment getting these mercenaries quietly back to their homes. The inhabitants already look forward with alarm to their return, and hope the military authoritles will disarm them immediately peace is concluded.

Persons who have recently come here from Novi-Bazar say that the conduct of the Servian troops during their retreat from the positions they had occupied near Sienitza and Mitrovitza, in Turkish territory, was very barbarous, and I hear from good authority, I believe, that they burnt the Christian villages Sossanitza, Slatina, and Ishtavni, through which they passed, driving the inhabitants before them into Servia, where they armed them and forced them to fight against the Turks.

Ustop and other Mahommedan villages near the Servian frontier have also fared the same fate. My informant further states that the Turkish troops in their turn retaliate by burning Servian villages.

In this way both sides seem to waste their energies in carrying on a species of warfare contrary to every military principle.

I very much regret having to report there is growing discontent among the non-Mahommedan inhabitants, caused by the arbitrary and vexatious manner in which the subordinate authorities in the interior enforce the Government requisition for transport horses and mules for the army.

I inclose copy of a letter, with its inclosure, from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter relative to this subject, also a translated extract from the local Greek newspaper "Ermis," giving an account of the brutal mode of enforcing this Government requisition in the district of Satchista in the Vilayet of Monastir. As I have been assured that the facts related in this extract are correct, I have requested the Pasha of Salonica to telegraph them to his

colleague at Monastir, and to strongly urge the necessity of putting a stop to such outrages, and of punishing in an exemplary manner the guilty parties.

I have also brought under the serious notice of his Excellency several similar cases, but of less gravity, and pointed out to him the discontent and ill-feeling they provoke, and the discredit they cast upon the Government.

His Excellency, who I am bound to say gives proofs of liberal views and humane feelings, does his best to prevent these arbitrary proceedings, but unfortunately his subordinates in the interior do not appear to appreciate or uphold his policy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 268.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Larissa, August* 31, 1876.

I INCLOSE extract of a letter, with its annex, connected with the forced supply of cattle for the army, which I have received from Volo from a person of whose intelligent and impartial observance I have had much experience.

It offers a fair example of the effect generally which has been produced in many instances by the requisition which consequently continues to progress very slowly in execution.

There is a report now current that orders for other similar forced exactions of flour, rice, butter, &c., for the army have come or are on the way, but I cannot ascertain yet whether there be any truth in it.

Inclosure 3 in No. 268.

Extract from a Letter, dated Volo, August 26, 1876.

I SUBJOIN the translation of an order which recently was addressed in the Greek language by the Governor of Volo to the primates of the six villages which compose the district of Zagora,* the exceptionally peremptory and menacing tone of which has been much commented upon.

The population of the villages in question is of the poorest in this district, and owing to failure in spring of produce of silk-cocoons, and now of the fruit crop, their principal resources, their condition this year is peculiarly disastrous.

The cost of the 26 requisitioned baggage animals would involve a disburse of at least between 45,000 and 50,000 piastres, which they are utterly without means of meeting.

They have lately telegraphed a petition to the Grand Vizier. No answer has yet been received, and it is doubted that any favourable one will be given, in which case the distress and misery consequent to these poor people will be incalculable.

The population consists entirely of Christians of the Greek Church.

ANNEX.

The Governor of Volo to the District of Zaghora, in Thessaly.

(Traduction.) *Volo, le* $\frac{29 \text{ Juillet}}{10 \text{ Août}}$, 1876.

D'APRES un ordre supérieur télégraphique de son Excellence le Mutessarif Pacha nous vous ordonnons de nous envoyer sans le moindre ajournement 26 mulets ou chevaux pour l'armée Impériale qui se bat bravement contre les Serbes.

Autrement si vous désobéirez, nous vous considérerons semblables à ceux-ci (Serbes) et nous emploieront contre vous des promptes mesures pour vous y contraindre.

Le Caimacam de Volo,

(L.S.) MUFIT.

(Translation.)

Volo, July $\frac{\text{July}}{\text{August}}$ $\frac{29}{10}$, 1876.

WE order you, in virtue of a telegraphic instruction from his Excellency the Mutessarif Pasha, to send us, without the least delay, twenty-six mules and horses for the Imperial army, which is now bravely fighting against the Servians.

* On Mount Pelion.

Otherwise, if you disobey, we shall look upon you in the light of Servians, and we shall promptly take measures against you to enforce compliance.

The Kaïmakam of Volo,
(Signed) MUFIT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 268.

Extract from the "Ermis," published at Salonica.

(Traduction.)

LA communauté de Satchista ayant déjà donné 16 bêtes de somme au Gouverneur de Lipsiste pour les besoins de l'armée Impériale, fut de nouveau impérativement invitée à en fournir autre huit.

Pendant qu'on les réunissait est venu un bimbashi envoyé pour cet objet, accompagné de trois soldats et d'un souvari nommé Zeinel. Vendredi passé du présent mois le susdit bimbashi rencontrant au milieu du bazaar le Demogerond Jean Verou lui demanda les dites bêtes de somme. Ne tenant aucun compte des représentations du Demogerond, qui lui disait que l'on réunissait les bêtes, il commença à le battre.

Le Cogia-bashi Mihail voyant cette triste scène approcha le bimbashi et le pria de laisser Verou; que lui-même s'occupe de cette affaire, et que sous peu les bêtes lui seraient remises. Mais le brave bimbashi l'accable d'injures et donne ensuite ordre aux soldats et souvari de le jeter en bas. Les soldats saisissant ce malheureux homme les uns par les cheveux, les autres par les mains et les pieds, le bimbashi l'a impitoyablement battu avec un gros baton qu'il tenait en main; et ce n'est que lorsque il ne pouvait plus frapper qu'il l'a laissé.

(Translation.)

THE district of Satchista having already furnished sixteen beasts of burden to the Governor of Lipsiste for the wants of the Imperial army, has been again imperatively ordered to supply eight more.

While they were being collected a bimbashi, who had been sent with this object, arrived, accompanied by three soldiers and a "souvari" named Zeinel. The aforesaid bimbashi, on last Friday of this month, meeting the Demogerond, Jean Verow, in the middle of the bazaar, asked him for the said bat animals. Paying no heed to the representations of the Demogerond, who told him that the animals were being collected, he began to beat him.

The Cogia-bashi Michael, witness of this sad scene, approached the bimbashi, and begged him to spare Verow, adding that he himself was looking after the matter, and that very shortly the beasts would be handed over. But the bimbashi overwhelmed him with reproaches, and then bid the soldiers and the souvari to throw him down. The soldiers then seized this unfortunate man, some by the hair, others by the hands and feet, and the bimbashi mercilessly beat him with a big stick which he had in his hand, and it was only when he could strike no longer that he left off.

No. 269.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my despatch to Sir Henry Elliot of yesterday's date, with a copy of its inclosure, relative to certain charges which have been brought against the provincial authorities of Salonica, particularly with reference to the alleged sale of Bulgarian children.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 269.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, September* 4, 1876.

THE Pasha of Salonica, acting under orders from the Porte, has recently instituted an inquiry into the following charges which have been brought against the provincial authorities of this vilayet:—

1. For allowing the sale of Bulgarian children at Salonica, Nevrocop, Uscup, and Comanova.

2. For having arbitrarily shut up the Bulgarian printing office at Salonica.

3. For having intercepted and seized letters addressed to the foreign Consulates at this place.

The inquiry was made by a Commission, which included the heads of the communities and the principal functionaries in this place, and was closed last week with a Report rebutting the charges in question.

I regret I have not been able to procure a translation of this Report, but I have already reported fully to your Excellency as regards the first charge. I think the inclosed extract of a letter from Mr. Davies, our late Vice-Consul at Cavalla, is relevant to this case.

As regards the second charge, it was not a Bulgarian printing office, but a book store which was shut up by the authorities, I am told; a prudent measure at the time, as there were emissaries about distributing inflammatory pamphlets amongst the Bulgarians.

Finally, I have not heard any of my colleagues complain of the authorities having intercepted their correspondence.

I am told that it was the Russian Embassy at Constantinople that brought the above charges under the notice of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 269.

Mr. Davies to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Cavalla, July* 25, 1876.

Sale of Christian Boys and Girls.—I have looked well into this affair, and whilst I quite believe that young boys are used for abominable purposes by the Turks and the Greeks, I cannot find that any actual sale of the person takes place.

Bashi-Bazouk Atrocities.—The Bashi-Bazouks were leaving Cavalla in companies, accompanied a few miles out by the authorities. In the neighbourhood of Cavalla very little was heard of atrocities; but it was considered quite unsafe to go out far from the town. I am disposed to think the alarm at Kanthi not altogether justified. I fear the Christian community there are rather timorous and too prone to panic. They are a rich, numerous, and intelligent body, and yet they appear to do nothing whatever to protect themselves, always crying out for help from others at the least alarm.

No. 270.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September* 7, 1876.

AS there is such an outcry in the press against alleged Turkish atrocities, I think it right to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter I received this morning from Dr. Ruttledge, who has recently gone to Mitrovitza to attend to the sick and wounded.

Your Lordship will observe the testimony borne by Dr. Ruttledge to the humane conduct of the military authorities.

I attach all the more value to it, as Dr. Ruttledge is not a man who forms a hasty opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 270.

Dr. Ruttledge to Consul Blunt.

Dear Mr. Blunt, *Mitrovitza, September* 5, 1876.

WE have, as you know, an entrenched camp here with seven regiments. New egiments are ever arriving, and as quickly sent to the front.

There is a hospital in this place with about 100 beds, but we have only two wounded, one of whom is a Servian; and I am pleased to find that the poor fellow is treated with every consideration, and that his sad lot is rendered as easy as possible.

It appears that Mitrovitza is too far from the seat of operations, that many wounded cannot be transported for so long a distance. The hospital, though very defective in construction, is well supplied with medical needs. There are four Turkish doctors, and two others left for Salonica the day after my arrival. Consequently, there is a superfluity of medical men, and as yet I have had nothing to do of consequence. I hope the authorities will send me nearer the front, as it is unpleasant to be here without occupation, knowing at the same time that there must be wounded in the front requiring surgical help.

I have been able to notice a good trait in the character of the Turks both civil and military—that is a feeling of humanity towards man and beast. The sick are treated with a fair amount of skill, and great attention; and the complaints of the soldiers are listened to with attentive care; and above all the numerous pack horses—probably considerably over 1,000—are treated with due consideration. As yet I have not seen one single instance of cruelty!

We have no Bashi-Bazouks here. The discipline of the troops is good. The troops here are all of the reserve.

I have not observed any instance of intoxication amongst the soldiers; altogether the place is much more quiet than an English garrison town.

The hospital, which was formerly a han, is very defective, but I am told, is only to be used as a halting place for the sick, and when they are well enough they will be sent to Salonica by rail.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) T. E. RUTTLEDGE.

No. 271.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September* 8, 1876.

I AM informed that the Herzegovinians have taken and blown up the Fort of Szlostrop, the first blockhouse in the line between Gaczho and Nichsich. Ninety prisoners are reported to have fallen into their hands. The fort has been blown up with dynamite, and totally destroyed.

Moukhtar Pasha is encamped, I believe, near Klobuch, on Montenegrin territory. He has burned another village (accidentally?). but has apparently made up his mind not to risk a regular engagement. I do not put faith in the Slav assertions that he is in a dangerous position.

The Slavophils here insist that the Turkish advance into Montenegro was undertaken simply to throw obstacles in the way of the conclusion of an armistice.

The Austrian, French, Italian, and Russian Agents are still with the Prince. The German Consul here, who is the unofficial agent of his Government to Montenegro, has received no instructions to join them.

Much surprise is expressed here at the abstention of England and Germany from sending an Agent to the Montenegrin camp.

Three Russian doctors and twelve nurses passed through Ragusa this morning on their way to Cettigné.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 272.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(Extract.) *Berlin, September* 11, 1876.

AS I had the honour to inform your Lordship by my telegram of this date, M. de Bülow stated to me that if the Porte persists in her refusal to grant a suspension of hostilities, he anticipates very serious difficulties must arise, as he does not otherwise see the possibility of bringing forward for discussion the conditions of peace which his Excellency said, he had indirectly heard, the Porte intends to embody in her reply to the Representatives of the uaranteeing Powers.

I informed his Excellency, without reference to Sir Henry Elliot's telegram of the 10th ultimo, setting forth the basis upon which the Porte was willing to treat, that Her Majesty's Government had, in view of such a contingency, communicated confidentially to the Russian Government the provisions which appeared to them, independent of the opinions that may be put forward by other Powers, proper to form the basis of a pacification.

I then mentioned to his Excellency in a general form the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 11th, adding that I felt confident the German Government would fully appreciate the important step taken by Her Majesty's Government, as likely to lead, if duly supported by the other Governments, not only to a suspension of hostilities, but also to the re-establishment of peace.

M. de Bülow expressed the greatest satisfaction at the information I conveyed to him, and asked if he could communicate it at once confidentially to the Emperor and to Prince Bismarck, to which I assented.

No. 273.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

My Lord, *Berlin, September* 13, 1876.

M. DE BULOW requested me to call on him this morning, when he informed me that he had heard from another source that your Lordship had communicated to the Russian Government the conditions which Her Majesty's Government are of opinion should form the basis of a pacification. M. de Bülow added that, as I had communicated on the subject confidentially, he wished to advise me that the other Representatives had received similar information.

I said that no doubt your Lordship had made the same communication to Her Majesty's Representatives at the other Great Powers. His Excellency then asked me if I was aware that the Austrian Government had been informed of the opinion expressed by your Lordship, as he was anxious to know how that communication had been received by Count Andrassy. I replied that up to the present I had no information on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 274.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

My Lord, *Berlin, September* 16, 1876.

M. DE BULOW informed me this morning that the Emperor had expressed great satisfaction at the important and prominent part taken by Her Majesty's Government in endeavouring to bring about a pacification. His Excellency said that when two Powers so deeply interested in the question as England and Russia worked hand-in-hand, he could safely say, on behalf of His Majesty, that they will certainly meet with the goodwill and sympathy of the German Government.

I asked M. de Bülow if he had heard it reported that Austria refused to countenance peace being negotiated on the conditions set forth by the Turkish Government. His Excellency replied that he regretted to say that as yet he had no reliable information as to the views of the Austrian Government with regard to the reply of the Porte to the offer of mediation; but that he sincerely trusted the Austrian Government would see the necessity of proceeding jointly, not only with her Allies, but with the other great Powers, in the work of pacification; and he felt confident that ultimately they would agree to the general basis on which it is proposed to negotiate peace.

I availed myself of his Excellency's reply to inform him that as the phrase local or administrative autonomy, as applied by your Lordship to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, conveyed nothing more than a system of local administration, and had no reference to the erection of a tributary State, Austria could offer no reasonable objection.

His Excellency said that he felt sure the Austrian Government cannot have understood that phrase differently, and he therefore felt all the more confident that if your

Lordship's suggestions were generally adopted, the Austrian Government will eventually agree to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 275.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 18.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, September* 12, 1876.

TWO Congresses, the Statistical and Prehistoric, have been holding their sittings here for the last fortnight, and have been received by the Hungarians with a large hospitality, in which the Archduke Joseph and the Municipality of Buda-Pest have had a prominent share.

The Consuls-General had the honour of being invited to take part as Members in the Statistical Congress, and I availed myself of the opportunity of entering myself for the expedition to Orsova which the Municipality offered to the Congress. But, as I was desirous of seeing Belgrade, I started twelve hours earlier by steamer with the intention of joining the expedition at Bazias.

There were a score or more of Russians on board, who were most of them going to Alexinatz, and were some of them officers. They were going to Servia as volunteers, because they "understood what their duty was," and "they did not believe the war would end now."

They seemed to be acting from enthusiasm for the Slav cause, and not as under orders from their Government. I was informed that they were travelling with Red Cross passports. The day after my arrival at Semlin one of them was seen at Belgrade in the full uniform of a Servian officer.

At Semlin and Belgrade I heard estimates of the number of Russian officers and soldiers varying from 3,000 to 6,000.

On board the steamer by which I left Semlin there arrived at Belgrade a large number of Russians, and on the way to Orsova a steamer passed upwards with a considerable number of Cossacks on board.

On my steamer there were several Servian officers, and Bulgarians, one of whom had been educated at Odessa, seemed well acquainted with the details of the Bulgarian insurrection last spring, and was, as I was told, travelling with a Red Cross passport.

Baron Mundy, who is at the head of the Servian Hospital Service, and others with whom I conversed on the steamer, confirmed the accounts of the self-mutilation of the Servian militia, and estimated the number as high as 70 to 80 per cent. of the wounded, and said the Servians would not fight any longer if it were not for the presence of the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 276.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 18.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September* 12, 1876.

BY apparently trustworthy information from a Bulgarian Christian source, I learn that the outbreak last spring at Philippopoli was a premature uprising in connection with an organization for effecting the independence of Bulgaria. The reason of it was that two or three villages determined in haste to prevent the arrest of one of the Chiefs of the organization, and therefore massacred the Turkish detachment sent to seize him on suspicion. Other villages were called upon for support, and eventually 200 villages—some 15,000 men, formed into bands armed with pistols, knives, &c., but without guns, and took to the hills. Retaliations followed on both sides, and eventually 12 battalions of troops were sent through the district, and laid waste all the villages in insurrection, and massacred the inhabitants.

Although my informant spoke fiercely of some horrible outrages which occurred, he did not seem to regard the manner of suppressing the insurrection as more cruel than was to be expected by a defeated party in an Oriental country.

At Tirnovo, near the Danube, where an insurrectionary movement, at which he was

present, also began, the Turks destroyed utterly four villages in insurrection, and robbed three others.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 277.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 18.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, September* 12, 1876.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch of to-day's date, I have learnt from the same source that for at least three years a complete organization has existed in Bulgaria for obtaining constitutional rights, and that statistics have been carefully collected for estimating the number and armed force of the people. The former is put at 7,000,000 (but this is probably too high by more than 1,000,000) in Bulgaria, Macedonia, and the neighbouring territory, as against 1,500,000 Turks in Bulgaria. The armed force it was intended to supply by seizing a large store of Turkish arms at a certain place, and the insurrection was planned to be general on a given day, which might have been this year, but had not been fixed.

The object of the movement is to obtain freedom from the absolute rule of the Turk, perfect equality of rights (as promised after the Crimean War), and a constitution which shall effectually protect the Christian Bulgarians against the Turk; and then, my informant added, any Prince, English, French, German, or other—even a Turk—might be put at the head of the State, and the suzerainty of the Porte upheld; but there was no desire to exchange masters and substitute for Mahometan despotism the rule of Russia. The Turks could still live as brothers with them on an equality, or gradually withdraw to a more congenial part of their Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 278.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 18.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September* 12, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that although the organisation in Bulgaria was a movement of the Bulgarian people purely for themselves, it was also in connection with the Bucharest Slav Committees, and with hopes of assistance in arms and money from the Russian Slav Committees, which have largely subscribed and have promised a generous assistance, whenever the movement was ripe; a distinct promise of 50,000 guns and 40 Krupp cannon has even been mentioned.

Two Bulgarians have been charged with a mission to England, and will soon be arriving in London with full details. If England or Austria would help them to their Constitution, she would be their friend for ever, is a frequent remark; but, in reply, I have said that I knew nothing of what England's policy might be in future, but that at present her expression of feeling was based upon her humane view of the cruelties in the Philippopoli district, and it would be unwise to suppose that her policy would ever be other than to endeavour to obtain for the Christian population of Turkey the full equality of rights which had been promised to them.

I gather that if aid to the Bulgarians were to come from Russia alone, they must accept it, but that they were as much prepared to resist a predominating Russian influence in Bulgaria as they were to free themselves from the yoke of the Turk.

It was a great misfortune, which Bulgarians deplore, for their country, that the premature outbreak had taken place last spring at Philippopoli. The district was, moreover, traversed by three military roads, and there was no chance of success; but with a sufficient supply of arms a movement from the Danube forwards to Philippopoli would probably force the Turks to make satisfactory terms, as they seem to think.

I learn also that a Bulgarian who has been charged by the Bulgarian Committees with a special mission, has been at Belgrade, and is now going to St. Petersburgh, to see what aid he can obtain either for this autumn or next spring, as the case might be.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 279.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

My Lord, *Vienna, September* 14, 1876.

IT is believed here that the Servian Government are prepared for an indemnity to the Porte for the expenses of the war, being included in the terms of pacification finally agreed upon, and that they will also undertake the immediate construction of the proposed railway.

The Austrian-Hungarian Government wish a stipulation on this subject to be included in the terms of pacification, as the delay which has hitherto taken place in the construction of a railway across the Principality is attributed to the past unwillingness of the Government to make a loan for such an object, their policy having been to reserve all their financial resources for the great struggle which has just ended in disaster.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 280.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

My Lord, *Rome, September* 15, 1876.

NOT being able to see the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day, I spoke to Count Tornielli, Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the answer of the Porte to the demands of the Powers for an armistice.

Count Tornielli appeared to be by no means satisfied with the answer, and he attached less importance to the intention of the Porte to order the suspension of hostilities than it seems to deserve. He spoke of the communication recently made by Russia declaring that her intention to receive no answer but the armistice was unshakeable. He observed that in this communication Russia had spoken of her dignity, and he said that it was a matter of form which went to the core of the question. At Reichstadt the principle of non-intervention had been provisionally adopted, and ulterior measures, if necessary, were to be discussed and arranged between the Six Powers; the term Christian Powers had subsequently been used. The understanding denoted, in fact, the assumption of the right of the Six Powers to consult and decide upon the reforms necessary in Turkey without the participation of the Porte in the discussion. The Turkish Government understood this, and its insistance upon submitting terms of peace arose from the wish to compel the Powers to consider them in conjunction with it; while, on the other hand, Russia desired to determine them without Turkey, and subsequently to impose them upon her.

Under these circumstances, Count Tornielli feared that the answer of the Porte would be considered by Russia as unacceptable, and as touching her dignity. He said that the Minister for Foreign Affairs would probably telegraph instructions this evening to Count Corti to maintain the reserve which his position as a Minister to a Sultan who had not yet been recognized allowed. This, I conclude, means that Italy will do nothing until it learns the intentions of the other Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 281.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1876.

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government accept the suspension of hostilities as equivalent to an armistice, which they trust will be further extended in case of necessity.

Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe, from the language held to me to-day by the Russian Ambassador, that his Government will take the same view.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 282.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Macdonell.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1876.

I HAVE received your telegram of the 16th instant, in which you report to me the meaning attached by the German Government to the phrase "local or administrative autonomy" made use of in the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for the pacification of Bosnia and the Herzegovina; and I have to instruct you to inform the German Government that this construction is correct. The desire of Her Majesty's Government is that the population of those provinces should be granted some voice in the management of their local affairs, and that they should be afforded protection against acts of an arbitrary character.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 283.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me several telegrams which he had received from Prince Gortchakow, on the subject of the proposal I had made on the 16th instant (as reported in my despatch of that date), as to the course now to be pursued towards the Turkish Government.

The substance of these telegrams was as follows:—

The Russian Government agreed to the basis proposed by that of Her Majesty, for the negotiation of peace, and would be ready to act simultaneously with us as soon as they heard that instructions had been sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

Prince Gortchakow understands, however, that the promise of the Turkish Government is only to suspend hostilities for ten days. This seems to the Russian Government to be unacceptable; but if the suspension is for an indefinite term, as I had told Count Schouvaloff, they would be prepared to accept it as equivalent to an armistice.

Prince Gortchakow further states that the Russian Government have energetically condemned the foolish escapade of General Tchernaieff, which was equally regretted by Prince Milan. I presume that this refers to an announcement which appears in the public press, though I have not received any official confirmation of it, to the effect that the Servian army had proclaimed Prince Milan King of Servia. The Russian Government were encouraging Prince Milan to maintain an attitude in conformity with the proposed armistice.

I told Count Schouvaloff that under these circumstances I would instruct our Ambassador at Constantinople by telegraph to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government accept the suspension of hostilities as equivalent to an armistice, in the confidence that it will be further extended in case of necessity.

His Excellency said he would at once inform his Government of this step, and that he had little doubt they would make a similar communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 284.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador showed me to-day, in the course of conversation, a telegram he had received from Prince Gortchakow, expressing the hope that Her Majesty's Government would not forget their good intentions towards Montenegro, and would mention them in the course of the negotiations.

This communication referred to the statement I had made at the end of June, as reported in my despatch to your Excellency, of the 28th of that month, to the effect that Her Majesty's Government had advised the Porte to endeavour to detach the Prince of Montenegro from the insurgents, and to hold out to him the hope of some accession of

territory in order to secure his good offices for the pacification of the provinces then in rebellion.

I told Count Schouvaloff that I did not see how we could give the same advice now. A concession which might have been judicious at that time with the view of avoiding the outbreak of the war could no longer be urged on that ground now that the campaign had actually taken place; nor could it be said that the Montenegrin forces had obtained such military successes as to entitle Prince Nicholas to expect any material advantages on the conclusion of peace.

Count Schouvaloff said that he had thought it right to give me Prince Gortchakow's message, but that it had been superseded by later communications which he had addressed to his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 285.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 18, 1876.*

THE Turkish Ambassador here having requested the Austrian-Hungarian Government to consider as confidential the communication made to the Powers that orders had been given for a suspension of hostilities, I have informed his Excellency that, after the steps taken in consequence of that communication by Her Majesty's Government in the interests of peace, it is quite impossible that the Porte should maintain such a fiction.

No. 286.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, September 1, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Firman of last December, directing that the "Bedel i askerieh," or tax in lieu of military service on non-Mussulman subjects of the Porte, should be levied between the ages of 20 and 40, has been repealed, and instructions have been received here henceforward to levy this tax on all between the ages of 15 and 75.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 287.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, September 1, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, since writing my last despatch further reinforcements of four or five battalions have passed by Serajevo, and proceeded to the Herzegovina. Five battalions also and a battery of guns have been forwarded to Belina, and the Ferik Veli Pasha leaves to-morrow or the next day for that place with the intention of entering Servia, if he finds the force under his command sufficiently strong. He will have about eleven battalions of regulars and two batteries, with several thousands of irregulars, but no one seems to know the exact number.

On the 26th the covering of the Prophet's tomb was brought here by the troops passing by to the Herzegovina, and was received with every demonstration of honour and reverence, and deposited in the principal Mosque.

On the 31st news arrived of the accession to the Throne of Sultan Abdul ul Hamit Khan in consequence of the hopeless illness of his brother. The news was received without enthusiasm, the predominating feeling being that of regret that the melancholy condition of the late Sultan Murad rendered this change unavoidable. Sultan Hamit is supposed by the Mussulmans here to resemble the late Sultan Mahmoud; to be of a firm and resolute disposition; very economical, and a decided Mussulman; averse to any

relaxation of the religious law, and consequently to any reforms in favour of the Christians of the Empire; and so far they think he will prove a better Sultan than his brother. The usual salutes and illuminations will continue for three days.

No direct information has been received here regarding affairs in Servia or Montenegro, and all news of what is occuring reaches us through the public press. The probability of an approaching mediation and pacification appears imminent; and, notwithstanding a feeling of regret that the Ottoman successes have not been more rapid and decisive, and a conviction that were the strife prolonged another month a peace might be dictated from Belgrade, the people will gladly welcome a cessation of hostilities and the termination of a state of affairs which weighs so heavily on the whole population.

The Turks here entirely deny the correctness of the details of the victory claimed by the Montenegrins over Mahmoud Pasha at Kutchi, but of course they desire as much to make little of the matter as the Montenegrins to magnify its importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 288.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 19.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, September* 1, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a despatch of August 27, which I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, regarding the present situation of affairs in the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No 288.

Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Sir, *Mostar, August* 27, 1876.

THERE has been but little change of late in the situation in this province. Trebigné, so frequently represented as closely besieged by the enemy, is completely disengaged; the forces under Moukhtar Pasha and Jellal-ed-din Pasha have effected a junction without difficulty, and they have since had some unimportant skirmishes with the insurgents at Popovopolje and at Grebtzi. The insurgent Chief, Musich, is said to have passed into Dalmatia, but it is not yet known whether he has been arrested by the Austrian authorities.

The Montenegrin force seems to have quite withdrawn from Baricani, and to have passed over to the Albanian frontier, leaving only a few battalions in the district of Gatzko to intercept communications with the Turkish garrison of Metokia.

The ten battalions of troops sent from Bosnia, which I reported in my despatch of the 16th instant to have arrived at Focha, marched into Mostar to-day, having made a détour by way of Serajevo, to avoid any unnecessary encounter with the Montenegrins at Gatzko. After two or three days repose they will be sent forward to join Moukhtar Pasha's force; and it is said that the head-quarters of the army in the Herzegovina is to be permanently transferred from Mostar to Trebigné as being nearer the base of future operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

No. 289.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 19.)

My Lord. *Bosna Seraï, September* 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, of the 5th September, giving the latest information from the Herzegovina. Your Lord-

ship will observe, with regret, that the conduct of the Bashi-Bazouks employed in the late operations in Popovopolje has been marked by excesses which the General in command seemed unable to prevent. Jellal-ed-din Pasha is a Polish officer in the Turkish service, and probably felt himself powerless to punish the conduct which excited his disgust, and, as Mr. Freeman reports, consequently curtailed his expedition. Whether on this account, or for some other reason, I know not, but he has been placed in arrest by Moukhtar Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No 289.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Sir, *Mostar, September* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the occasion of my late journey to Ragusa, I availed of the opportunity to visit Trebigné and obtain some precise information as to the military movements in the Herzegovina.

The road from Ragusa to Trebigné is now quite free and strongly guarded by detachments of troops, in all about two battalions, stationed in small forts at intervals of two or three miles. All these forts have been well provisioned, and large quantities of flour are being daily transported from Ragusa to Trebigné.

On the 31st ultimo, Moukhtar Pasha proceeded with eighteen battalions to Bilek, to convoy 300 horse loads of provisions. He returned the following day and entered Trebigné while I was there, and I must here bear testimony to the excellent appearance of his troops after a hot and trying march of eighteen miles on two successive days. He saw no signs of the enemy during this short expedition.

On the 2nd instant, as I informed you by telegraph, Moukhtar Pasha marched out of Trebigné with twenty battalions, leaving only two in garrison, and, proceeding by way of Korianich, entered the Montenegrin district of Grahovo, where he occupied without fighting the position of Zaslop.

He will probably thence march on Umatz, where the Montenegrins have considerable depôts of provisions and ammunition.

The ten battalions under the command of Fuad-Pasha, which I reported as having arrived at Mostar on the 28th instant, continued their march two days later towards Trebigné, and they have now been ordered to join Moukhtar Pasha without delay in Grahovo.

Five battalions under Shakir Pasha also arrived here from Bosnia on the 3rd instant, and have left to-day for the Montenegrin frontier. The Mussulman population of Mostar and the vicinity have been required to furnish a body of 700 Bashi-Bazouks to accompany the expedition into Montenegro; but they appear to be very unwilling to respond to the call of the Government, and with the large force now at Moukhtar Pasha's disposal, it is difficult to understand why he should have recourse to irregular troops, who cannot be relied on in action and who only bring odium on the Turkish army.

I regret to have to report that during the late operations against the insurgents at Popovopolje, some wanton excesses appear to have been committed by the Albanian Bashi-Bazouks. Jellal-ed-din Pasha had been ordered to make a raid on the district of Rasno, to recover some cattle carried off by the insurgent band of Musich. Without orders, the Bashi-Bazouks burnt several catholic and probably innocent villages, and fired on the population, killing, amongst others, several women. The General expressed to me his repugnance to this needless cruelty, and said that he, in consequence, curtailed his expedition.

The insurgent chief Musich appears to have been arrested in Dalmatia, but subsequently made his escape, with the connivance, it may be safely asserted, of the gendarmes who escorted him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

No. 290.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 19.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, September* 8, 1876.

SINCE the entrance of Moukhtar Pasha into Montenegro no further information as to his movements has been received here.

A great victory obtained by the Turks in the vicinity of Alexinatz on the 2nd was officially reported by the authorities here, but whether true or not I have no means of ascertaining, and as Major-General Kemball is now at the head-quarters of Abdul Kerrim Pasha, your Lordship will be properly and promptly informed of all that takes place in that quarter, and it will be superfluous for me to telegraph news which may be received here, and which is always extremely vague.

Haidar Effendi has been appointed joint Commissioner with an Austrian official, not yet named, to inquire into the alleged violations of territory, and other matters connected with the Croatian frontier. That duty terminated, he hopes to be allowed to return to Constantinople; but if peace be made, it seems to me that his mission of facilitating and superintending the return of refugees into Bosnia will then become necessary.

The insurrection still lingers along the frontier of Dalmatia and Croatia. Skirmishes occasionally take place, but we hear little of them here, and they are probably of little importance.

The Governor-General informed me the other day that many refugees along the Save were returning to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No 291.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 19.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to repeat to your Lordship that the number of Russian volunteers passing through this country to the seat of war is daily on the increase.

The movement is organized by Committees in Russia, who have permanent agents at Bucharest, Galatz, and elsewhere, who receive the volunteers on their arrival, supply their wants, and forward them to their destination.

Twice a day they arrive in batches varying from twenty to sixty, sometimes more, sometimes less; they appear to be drawn from all classes, and very many, from their gait and appearance, have evidently passed through the ranks of the regular army, while some are clearly either retired officers or officers on leave.

It is stated that a few days since, some half-dozen disembarked at Galatz in the Cossack uniform. It is impossible, however, that they could have been actually in the Russian service, and were probably either Cossacks who have finished their service and retained their uniforms, or others who have travestied themselves in such a costume to make an effect on arriving in Servia.

The railway authorities in Roumania have been asked by persons at Odessa, obviously the promoters of this movement, whether the railway would convey 300 Russian workmen to Servia at reduced fares, a device of which the object is thoroughly transparent.

It is reported to me that some of these volunteers cross the frontier with Bulgarian Turkish passports, which have been taken from Bulgarian peasants, who flock to Southern Russia at this season as agricultural labourers, but I am disinclined to believe that the Russian Government authorities would relax the very strict system of passports and visas; and, as there can be no objection to Russians entering this country when properly provided with passports, there would be no particular reason for such a device, except, indeed, for those who repair at once to Bulgaria.

As, however, there is at present no insurrectionary movement to speak of in the latter province, I am disposed to look upon the story as a sensational rumour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 292.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord, *Rome, September 16, 1876.*

I HAD the honour to receive this morning your Lordship's telegram stating that the Porte had informed Sir Henry Elliot that orders were given to the Turkish Commanders to suspend hostilities; that your Lordship considered that it would be well that similar instructions should be given by the Montenegrin Government, and instructing me, as Her Majesty's Government have no Representative at Montenegro, to request the Italian Government to speak in this sense.

I saw Count Tornielli, Secretary-General, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs this morning. He showed much hesitation in undertaking the responsibility of sending the message to Montenegro, and he said that it would, at all events, be requisite that I should make the request in a formal note.

I accordingly drew up a note in the terms of your Lordship's telegram, and sent it to Signor Melegari. I have the honour to inclose a copy of it herewith.

This afternoon I saw Signor Melegari. He informed me that he had despatched a message to Signor Durando, Italian Agent in Montenegro, in accordance with your Lordship's request; that he had prefaced the instruction by saying that he had received the good news from your Lordship that orders had been sent by the Porte for the suspension of hostilities, and that he had done this in order to cover his responsibility, as he had not received similar news from Constantinople. He had, indeed, heard from Count Corti that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated to the dragomans present that such orders would be sent, but that he could not regard such a communication as official, and that he had not heard that the orders had, in fact, been transmitted.

From your Lordship's telegram, however, he said that it clearly appeared that the Porte had made the communication to Sir Henry Elliot, and he was glad to be able to accede in this form to your Lordship's wishes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 292.

Mr. Malet to M. Melegari.

M. le Ministre, *Rome, September 16, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Sir Henry Elliot, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, has informed Her Majesty's Government that orders are given to the Turkish Commanders to suspend hostilities. Her Majesty's Government consider that it would be well that similar instructions should be given by the Montenegrin Government; but, as England has no Representative in Montenegro, I have been desired by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to ask the Government of His Italian Majesty to speak in this sense; and I have the honour to communicate this request to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. MALET.

No. 293.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 18, 1876.*

VICE-CONSUL CALVERT telegraphed two days ago that the reports of intended massacres are owing to the threats of the Mussulman populations, but that he did not apprehend immediate danger, though the Turks being all armed an outbreak was possible. Isolated outrages were frequent and could only be stopped by reinforcements of troops and police to disarm the Turks. I at once urged these measures on the Porte. Another telegram from him received this morning states that the Governor is uneasy because no reinforcements have arrived, especially as Ramazan begins to-morrow, and on the first night it is the custom of the Turks to fire pistols in the streets. I sent this telegram to the Minister of War, and spoke myself to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the necessity for immediately providing for the security of the

population. A new Commission, consisting of four Mussulmans and four Christians, left this morning with full powers for investigating further the late outrages and for punishing the authors.

No. 294.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 18, 1876.*

I HAVE informed Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government consider some of the conditions of the Porte inadmissible.

Musurus Pasha had already informed his Excellency that you had stated to him that they could not be accepted.

I asked him what the Porte would do if the Powers rejected them.

He said that the Porte had already declared that it would abide by the decisions of Powers, and it would do so, though it could not believe that all its proposals would be set aside.

He asked views of Her Majesty's Government about Bosnia and Herzegovina, expressing the hope that those provinces might be left to be included in the administrative arrangements.

I said that it was not to be supposed that the arrangement of a system of administration for those provinces could be deferred till a general reorganisation took place, and the Powers must certainly now agree as to what was to be done.

He must, moreover, not be surprised if the Powers insist that measures shall be taken to secure the Bulgarians from repetition of acts which have taken place, and the best course for the Porte to take would be at once to promulgate reforms which will be considered sufficient for the purpose.

No. 295.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 19, 1876, 10 A.M.*

PORTE is anxious that Mr. Baring should go again to Philippopolis to be present at the inquiries before the new Commission.

It states that he has been mistaken both as to the number of the inhabitants of the villages and to the number of victims, and would like him to be on the spot to compare his estimates with the official registers.

I propose to send him, as his presence will strengthen the Christian Commissioners and help to elicit the truth.

No. 296.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 19, 1876.*

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me to-day and told me that his Government considered that there was a wide distinction between what the Porte has conceded in regard to a suspension of hostilities, and what the Powers had asked. They prefer, therefore, to maintain an attitude of reserve, but wish to profit by the time allowed before the 25th to come to an understanding with other Powers as to the conclusion of a more formal armistice.

They are informed that the Austrian Government are now united with the rest in asking for an armistice without a previous agreement as to conditions of peace.

General Menabrea went on to tell me that the answer of the Prince of Montenegro to the suggestion made by Her Majesty's Government, which the Italian Government had conveyed to His Highness at my request, is to the effect that he accepts it, and has given orders accordingly to suspend military operations, but on the understanding that the troops of both armies shall keep strictly to their actual position. Any movement by Moukhtar Pasha to disengage himself from his present position, or to obtain supplies,

which are at present cut off, will be regarded as an offensive movement. The Prince considers that the same rule should apply to the blockade of the fortresses of Nisch and Medun.

The Italian Government think these conditions reasonable, but, at the same time, consider that they furnish the strongest reason for concluding a regular armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 297.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876.

IT has been stated by your Excellency, in the telegram which I received from you on the 17th instant, that you had been informed that it was the intention of Count Andrassy to submit to the Powers the text of a communication which he proposed should be made to the Porte, laying down the terms which the Austro-Hungarian Government were disposed to recommend as the basis of a pacification.

If the information which you have received is correct, it must be inferred that the Austro-Hungarian Government do not acquiesce in the basis suggested by Her Majesty's Government, the terms of which were communicated to Sir H. Elliot on the 11th instant, but are about to take the initiative in making a counter-proposal.

Her Majesty's Government earnestly hope that this is not the case, and they trust that Austria-Hungary will at once express her acquiescence in the British proposals.

You will have learnt from my telegram of this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh that the Russian Ambassador has read to me telegrams from his Government, stating that Russia accepts the bases for the negotiations of peace suggested by Great Britain, and giving the assurance that they would be ready, as soon as Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople should be formally instructed to propose these bases to the Porte, to direct the Russian Representatives to act in concert with him. If, therefore, Austria-Hungary should differ or should refuse her acquiescence, she would be opposing a policy on which Great Britain and Russia are agreed. It is sincerely to be hoped, in the interests of peace, that she will not take this course, but that, by signifying at once her acquiescence in our proposals, she will enable us to send without delay the requisite instructions for its formal communication to the Porte.

I have to direct your Excellency to speak to Count Andrassy in this sense, and to urge him to give an immediate reply, as it is of the utmost importance that no time should be lost.

Count Andrassy is, of course, aware that it has been explained that, in speaking of administrative reforms for Bosnia and Herzegovina in the nature of local autonomy, Her Majesty's Government intended to propose the adoption of a system of local institutions which would give the population some control over their local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. If he should require any further assurances on this point, you will be able to give them, and to make him clearly understand that the idea of the creation of a tributary State has never been entertained by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 298.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876.

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires spoke to me to-day on the subject of the Circassian Colonies recently settled in parts of the Turkish dominions bordering on the Greek Kingdom. He said that his Government had been assured that no such settlement would be made near the frontier. But this was a vague phrase, and some colonies had in fact been made very near the boundary; others had been set up in the Greek Provinces of Turkey, a step to which Greece felt bound to object, from sympathy with the original inhabitants of the country.

I told M. Gennadius that I could not admit the right of the Greek Government to

interfere except in cases where their own neighbourhood was concerned. I agreed, however, in the general principle that it was a mistaken policy of the Turkish Government to plant these Circassian colonies in Europe, and I considered the matter to be one which deserved the attention of the Powers.

M. Gennadius went on to express a hope that in the negotiations which seem likely to take place at Constantinople, the general state of the Greek Provinces will be taken into consideration.

I said that this was a matter which must be dealt with by the Guaranteeing Powers collectively, and that I could not myself give any pledge on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 299.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador informed me to-day that the answer of the Prince of Montenegro to the suggestion made by Her Majesty's Government, which the Italian Government had conveyed to His Highness at my request, is to the effect that he accepts it, and has given orders accordingly to suspend military operations, but on the understanding that the troops of both armies shall keep strictly to their actual positions. Any movement by Moukhtar Pasha to disengage himself from his present position, or to obtain supplies, which are at present cut off, will be regarded as an offensive movement. The Prince considers that the same rule should apply to the blockade of the fortresses of Nisch and Medun.

The Italian Government think these conditions reasonable, but at the same time consider that they furnish the strongest reason for concluding a regular armistice. This shows the necessity for concluding a more formal arrangement for the cessation of hostilities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 300.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the steps which your Excellency took, as reported in your despatch of the 25th ultimo, to obtain the immediate and strict investigation into the case of a gross outrage stated to have been committed at a village between Adrianople and Enos.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 301.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador has read to me a telegram from his Government, from which it appeared that the Russian Government agreed to the basis proposed by Her Majesty's Government, in my telegram to Sir H. Elliot of the 11th instant, for the negotiation of peace, and would be ready to act simultaneously with us as soon as they heard that instructions had been sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Sent also to Mr. Malet, with the omission of the last sentence.

No. 302.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 19, 1876.*

I HAVE sent following telegram to Sir H. Elliot :—

"Information received here to-day from Belgrade of an attack, on the 17th instant, by the Turks on the Servian position has caused great dissatisfaction, and something should be done immediately to make suspension of hostilities effective.

"Servian Goyernment have telegraphed to their Agent here that no importance should be attached to the unauthorized proclamation by the army of Prince Milan as King of Servia, and that the Prince and his Government are determined to maintain a policy of peace."

No. 303.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 19, 1876.*

I HAVE sent following figures to Mr. White :—

"I am told that Servian Government excuse the proclamation by General Tchernaieff of Prince Milan as King of Servia, by representing the General to be no longer under their control and to be acting entirely independently of them. As, however, it must be in their power to cease supplying him with ammunition, this excuse will hardly be available in the event of the armistice being violated by the Servian army."

No. 304.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 19, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to me a telegram from his Government, stating that the Russian Agent at Belgrade reported on the 18th that the Turks had made a fresh attack in trying to pass the Morava under Bogawistche, and been repulsed. The Russian Government add that in consequence the pretended suspension of hostilities has been broken, or the Porte cannot enforce its authority, and that the Powers, which are all decided on insisting on an armistice, should take resolute and even menacing measures at Constantinople.

Her Majesty's Government hope that the report of the suspension of hostilities having been contravened by the Turks is not true.

I have to request your Excellency to ascertain the truth of the case, and to report it to me without delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 305.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

My Lord, *Rome, September 17, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a note from the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, acknowledging the receipt of my note informing his Excellency of your Lordship's request that he would communicate with Montenegro regarding a suspension of hostilities, and stating that he has telegraphed to the Italian Consul at present at Danilograd in the sense desired by your Lordship, the Italian Government being very happy to serve Her Majesty's Government as intermediary under the circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 305.

M. Melegari to Mr. Malet.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Rome, September* 16, 1876.

IN your note of to-day you inform me that the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, having received from Sir H. Elliot the news that orders had been given to the Turkish Generals for the suspension of hostilities, consider that it would be well that similar orders should be given by the Prince of Montenegro to his Generals. You add that Great Britain not having a Representative with the Prince, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had instructed you to ask the Government of the King to convey this communication to His Highness Prince Nicholas.

In reply to your note, I have the honour to inform you that a telegram was immediately sent in this sense to the King's Consul, who is at present at Danilograd with the Montenegrin head-quarters, the King's Government being very glad to serve Her Majesty's Government as intermediary under the circumstances.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) M. MELEGARI.

No. 306.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(Extract.) *Paris, September* 19, 1876.

I SAW the Duc Decazes this morning at the French Foreign Office. He read to me a telegram which he had received from the Marquis d'Harcourt.

It stated that your Lordship had told him that you had addressed a telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople directing him to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government accept the suspension of hostilities as equivalent to an armistice in the confidence that it will be further extended in case of necessity.

It added that the Russian Ambassador had answered for it ("se faisait fort") that his Government would concur in this instruction.

I said that it was principally with a view to inform the Duke of this telegraphic instruction having been sent by your Lordship that I had come to see him. I observed, however, that the expression "se faisait fort," used by the Marquis d'Harcourt of the Russian Ambassador, was perhaps a little stronger than that employed by your Lordship in making known to me that you had reason to believe, from the language of the Ambassador, that the Russian Government would take the same view as Her Majesty's Government.

The Duke said that he had, moreover, received intelligence from Constantinople that Safvet Pasha had declared that the Porte would be ready to prolong the suspension of hostilities beyond the 25th instant, if it should be necessary to do so.

He had also, he told me, heard from Berlin that the German Government approved the basis of pacification laid down by your Lordship on the 6th instant.

For himself, the only difficulty he had apprehended arose from the use of the word "autonomy" in your Lordship's statement of the conditions of pacification, but he had been completely reassured on this point by a telegram from the Marquis d'Harcourt, stating that your Lordship had explained distinctly the sense in which this term was used. It appeared, in fact, that there was no question of the creation of tributary States, but that by the term "local or administrative autonomy in Bosnia and Herzegovina" your Lordship intended nothing more than that the population should have some control over their own local affairs, and, moreover, should have securities against arbitrary authority.

No. 307.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

My Lord, *Paris, September* 19, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes told me this morning that he was about to address a circular to the French Representatives at the Courts of the Five Great Powers, instructing them to invite the Governments to which they were respectively accredited

to take up a very firm position at Constantinople, and to adopt timely and energetic measures to guard against the commission of excesses on their way home by the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians, who would be discharged from the Turkish armies when peace was made.

The Duke said that he understood that Her Majesty's Government intended to establish Consuls at Philippopolis and Sophia. France had, he thought, already Consular Agent residing at those places, but something more specially called forth by the present occasion would probably have a greater effect upon the Turks.

Sir Arnold Kemball, Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, was already in the field with the Turkish troops, and might perhaps return with them, and exercise some check upon them during their march homewards.

It had occurred to the Duke that the French Military Attaché at Constantinople might be sent to Philippopolis, where his presence might have a good effect in preventing a recurrence of excesses in Bulgaria.

It was not, however, the Duke went on to say, with regard to Bulgaria that he felt most apprehension. Atrocities were hardly likely to be repeated in a Province in which enormities had been already carried to a frightful extent, and had excited the loudly expressed reprobation of Europe. It was, in fact, especially with regard to Macedonia that he could not help feeling instinctively great anxiety.

There was, moreover, another point connected with the discharge of the Circassians from service in the army which occupied his mind. He thought that the Powers might well require the Porte to make an engagement towards them not to send any Circassians to settle in the neighbourhood of the Kingdom of Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 308.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 19, 1876.

A TELEGRAM received here to-night states that a deputation of all ranks is on its way from the army to Belgrade to acquaint Prince Milan of his having been proclaimed King.

The impression now existing at Belgrade appears in favour of this step on the part of the army, as it is thought there that it will give a fresh impetus to the war, no hopes being entertained that the present armistice will lead to peace.

No. 309.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 20, 1876.

I HAVE delayed reporting the proclamation by General Tchernaieff, at head-quarters, of Prince Milan as King, thinking the act too absurd by itself, and have waited to learn what action would be taken in consequence here.

I am assured that Prince Milan and his Ministry have sent the Minister of War to head-quarters to say that their sanction to this "pronunciamento" is not given.

I think that in case of an armistice the matter will be hushed up.

No. 310.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 20, 1876

THE Austrian Ambassador communicated to me a telegram from Belgrade stating that the Turks had attacked the Servian positions on Sunday evening, and that Tchernaieff expected a fresh attack the next day.

Sir A. Kemball, by a telegram dated from head-quarters on Sunday night, informed me that the Servians did not appear to have received orders to suspend offensive operations, as they had continued off and on during the day to fire into the Turkish camp, the Turks only responding to this in the rear when troublesome.

I have, however, telegraphed to him to ask the truth of the alleged attack of the Turks.

No. 311.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 20, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

THE Russian Ambassador informs me that propositions of peace suggested by Count Andrassy not appearing to the Russian Government admissible, and not being adapted to the present state of things, the Russian Representative at Constantinople has been instructed by telegraph to support the English conditions of peace.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 312.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 20, 1876, 5·45 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of the 19th instant, I approve your sending Mr. Baring with the new Commission of Inquiry.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 313.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September* 12, 1876.

I AM assured that the death-rate among the refugees from Bosnia and the Herzegovina continues to be very heavy; the women and children especially have succumbed to the maladies induced by so complete a change in their mode of existence.

The extent of the mortality has been concealed as much as possible from the notice of the Ragusans by the prohibition to bury the dead in the cemeteries belonging to the town; special burying-places having been, I am told, provided in the neighbourhood of the encampments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 314.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September* 12, 1876.

WITH the exception of the plundering of a provision train yesterday by some insurgents near Trebigné (a very insignificant affair), there has been complete quiet for some days in this part of the Herzegovina and along the northern frontier of Montenegro; nor has any fighting taken place on the Albanian side since the 6th instant, when the Turks suffered a severe check; although I hear by telegraph from Scutari that Dervish Pasha is preparing for another attack.

To make up for this momentary lull in military operations, the wildest and most sensational rumours have been current in Ragusa for several days past; forged telegrams have propagated the most improbable reports, and persons usually well informed and sober-minded, as well as the ignorant and credulous, have been duped into the most extravagant beliefs. This is in some measure due to the want of a newspaper in Ragusa, and the consequent absence of any check upon or control over the circulation of news. But it is also partly to be accounted for by the feverish anxiety of the inhabitants for some decisive event to put an end to a war which provokes the gravest apprehensions

among reflecting Dalmatians, and which inflicts pecuniary loss and distress upon all classes alike.

I am sorry, however, to have to report that it seems to be the general opinion that the signature of peace between Turkey and the belligerent Principalities would by no means imply the cessation of the insurrection; but, on the contrary, that the latter would be continued after the same fashion as that which for so many months baffled alike the repressive efforts of Turkey and the conciliatory tentatives of Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 315.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September 13, 1876.*

THE attack on the Turkish provision train near Trebigné, mentioned in my despatch of yesterday, seems to have been a more serious affair than the first accounts represented it as being.

The insurgents, it is now stated, succeeded in carrying off about seventy horses with their loads, and the rest of the train, which was on its way to the camp of Moukhtar Pasha, in the neighbourhood of Klobuck, had to retreat to Trebigné, with a loss, according to the Turks of ten, according to the insurgents of thirty men.

I believe that since Moukhtar Pasha's advance into Montenegro, the Russian ambulance has been withdrawn from Grahowo, and large numbers of Montenegrin women and children have fled across the border into Dalmatia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 316.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 21, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government received on the 14th instant your despatch of the 5th instant, inclosing copy of Mr. Baring's Report of his inquiries into the outrages recently committed on the Christian population of Bulgaria.

Her Majesty's Government were prepared by the preliminary Reports from Mr. Baring forwarded by your Excellency to hear that the crimes perpetrated by the Turkish Bashi-Bazouks and the Circassians had been of the gravest character, and they regret to find from the present complete Report that these apprehensions are confirmed to the fullest extent.

Although some of the stories which had been published have proved to be unfounded, there can be no doubt that the conduct of the Vali of Adrianople in ordering the general arming of the Mussulmans led to the assemblage of bands of murderers and robbers, who, under the pretext of suppressing insurrection, were guilty of crimes which Mr. Baring justly describes as the most heinous that have stained the history of the present century.

Moreover, it is conclusively shown that not only was the most culpable apathy displayed by the great majority of the Provincial authorities in allowing or conniving at such excesses, but that little or nothing effectual has been done in the way of reparation. While 1,956 Bulgarians were arrested for complicity in an insurrectionary movement which was at no time of a dangerous character, only a score or so of the murderers of unarmed men, women, and children have been punished.

It would indeed appear that the authority of the Porte has been set at defiance, and the Turkish Government at Constantinople kept in ignorance of the truth. Under no other circumstances can Her Majesty's Government suppose it possible that the Porte could have been led to promote and decorate officials whose acts have been at once a disgrace and an injury to the Turkish Empire.

The massacre at Batak is reported to have taken place on the 9th of May last, but on the 21st of July it still appears to have been unknown to or overlooked by the Porte, nor were the circumstances brought to light until discovered by Mr. Baring. By his statement it appears that eighty women and girls were taken to Mussulman

villages, of which he gives the names, and that they still remain there; that the bodies of the murdered victims were still, at the time of his visit, lying unburied; and that nothing had been done to discover or punish the perpetrators of these crimes.

It is unnecessary for me to refer in detail to the several passages in Mr. Baring's Report which show how effectually fanaticism and rapine have done their work on the population of this unhappy province.

Even now no serious effort has been made to redress the injuries of the people, and to provide effectually for their future safety. The cattle that have been carried off and the goods that have been plundered have not been restored; the houses and churches are left in ruins; the people are starving; industry and agriculture are suspended; and those Christian villages which have hitherto escaped feel no security that their turn may not come.

Acts of violence, as the Mudir at Avrat-Alan acknowledged, still continue, and the Porte is powerless or supine.

I have already informed your Excellency of the just indignation which the statements published of these atrocities have aroused in the people of Great Britain; nor can I doubt that a similar feeling prevails throughout Europe.

The Porte cannot afford to contend with the public opinion of other countries, nor can it suppose that the Government of Great Britain or any of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Paris can show indifference to the sufferings of the Bulgarian peasantry under this outbreak of vindictive cruelty. No political considerations would justify the toleration of such acts; and one of the foremost conditions for the settlement of the questions now pending must be that ample reparation shall be afforded to the sufferers, and their future security guaranteed.

In order that the views of Her Majesty's Government may be impressed in the most effective manner upon the Sovereign who has recently been called to the Ottoman Throne, Her Majesty's Government desire that your Excellency will demand a personal audience of the Sultan, and communicate to His Majesty in substance the result of Mr. Baring's inquiries, mentioning by name Shefket Pasha, Hafiz Pasha, Tossoun Bey, Achmet Agha, and the other officials whose conduct he has denounced.

Your Excellency will, in the name of the Queen and Her Majesty's Government, call for reparation and justice, and urge that the rebuilding of the houses and churches should be begun at once, and necessary assistance given for the restoration of the woollen and other industries, as well as provision made for the relief of those who have been reduced to poverty; and, above all, you will point out that it is a matter of absolute necessity that the eighty women should be found and restored to their families.

Your Excellency will likewise urge that striking examples should be made on the spot of those who have connived at or taken part in the atrocities. The persons who have been decorated or promoted under a false impression of their conduct should be tried and degraded, where this has not been done already, and every effort made to restore public confidence. With this view, it would seem advisable, as a provisional measure, and without prejudice to such future arrangements as may be made, in concert with the Powers, that the disturbed districts should be at once placed under an able and energetic Commissioner, specially appointed for the purpose, who, if not himself a Christian, should have Christian counsellors in whom trust could be reposed by the Christian population.

Your Excellency should also speak in the strongest terms of the neglect of the local authorities, and of the inadequacy of the inquiry made by Edib Effendi, upon whose Report, officially communicated to the Powers, it now seems that no reliance can be placed.

In order that your Excellency's representations may be well understood, you will furnish the Grand Vizier, at the conclusion of the audience, with a memorandum of the observations which, by the Queen's commands, you have been thus instructed to address to His Majesty the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 317.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 21, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the letter addressed by your Excellency to Sir A. Kemball, a copy of which is inclosed in your despatch of the 22nd ultimo, and in which you requested him to give you any information in his power respecting the atrocities stated by the Servian Minister to have been committed by Turkish troops upon Servian territory, and to remonstrate strongly if they have actually occurred.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 318.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 21, 1876.

I HAVE to request you to convey to Mr. Baring the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the conscientious and painstaking manner in which his full Report of the atrocities committed in Bulgaria has been drawn up.

The knowledge of Turkish acquired by him since his appointment to the Constantinople Embassy has proved of much utility, and does great credit to his ability and zeal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 319.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 21, 1876.

THE Servian Government represent that, in consequence of great proximity of outposts to principal armies, the present suspension of hostilities proves itself unpractical.

No. 320.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 21, 1876.

IN answer to an inquiry made by the Servian Agent here to his Government, the latter have contradicted the statement contained in my telegram of the 19th, respecting the proclamation of Prince Milan as King, adding that orders were immediately sent to prevent the arrival of a deputation from the army, and repudiating all participation in its proceedings.

No. 321.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 21, 1876.

COUNT ANDRASSY had already learned from the Russian Ambassador that his Government intends to support the English conditions of peace when I acquainted him with the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 19th on this subject.

I hope that I have been correct in expressing an opinion to him that Russia, in accepting these conditions, understands them as explained in your Lordship's telegram of the 15th instant.

At my interview with him to-day he expressed an opinion that a reference to the

* Repeated to Embassies.

concessions promised by the Porte last year is essential in order to give the Porte confidence in the views of Powers, as well as not to encourage exaggerated hopes among the people. His Excellency earnestly trusts that Her Majesty's Government will be able to meet his wishes on this point.

No. 322.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 21, 1876.

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me the substance of a despatch from Count Andrassy.

His Excellency states that Austria is deeply interested in putting an end to the war.

The country feels the effect of it in consequence of the numerous refugees who have fled into Austrian territory, and the Austrian Government fear that there may be an emigration in mass of the Christian population from the disturbed districts. The season is now advanced, and the peasants are likely to suffer severely. There will be scarcity both of food and lodging for the winter months, and it is to be feared that neither private charity nor public assistance will be sufficient to relieve the distress.

For these reasons it is not sufficient to obtain the conclusion of an armistice. It becomes of the highest importance that conditions of peace should be agreed upon without delay by the Powers, and enforced by them on the Porte.

The Austrian Government think that the following are the terms upon which peace should be concluded by the Porte with Servia and Montenegro:—

Servia to preserve entire territorial and political integrity. On the other hand she should be called upon to pay compensation for the villages destroyed on Turkish territory. To this condition Count Andrassy thinks the Servian Government would probably agree. Servia should also undertake the construction of the line of railway from Alexinatz to Belgrade, as the Turkish Government have not the means of doing it.

To this stipulation also Prince Milan might be disposed to listen. The other demands of the Porte the Austrian Government consider inadmissible.

As regards Montenegro, the terms of peace should be on the basis of the *status quo*. But a rectification of frontier might be asked from the Porte, to be granted as soon as peace is restored. Upon these conditions the Prince of Montenegro would be ready to do all in his power to secure the return of the insurgents and the general pacification of the disturbed provinces.

With regard to the provinces themselves, Count Andrassy thinks that the reforms promised before the war should be carried into effect in their fullest extent, and that guarantees should be provided for their due execution. Similar concessions should also be demanded for Bulgaria, as to which the notables of that province should be consulted, and a statement obtained of their requirements.

The atrocities recently committed in Bulgaria having shown that the Porte is unable to keep order among its irregular troops, these ought, in Count Andrassy's opinion, to be disbanded as soon as peace is made. And the Austrian Government think that for the future the employment of irregulars and Bashi-Bazouks should be forbidden within the limits of European Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No 323.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 21, 1876.

COUNT WOLKENSTEIN informed me this afternoon that he had received from Vienna a telegram to the following effect:—

Count Andrassy stated that it appeared from a communication which had been made to him by Sir A. Buchanan that Her Majesty's Government intended only by the phrase "local autonomy" to refer to administrative reforms of a purely local character,

to be applied to Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a view to the creation of institutions by which (1st) a certain influence should be granted to the inhabitants as regards the election of local functionaries; and (2ndly) the inhabitants should be protected against the return of arbitrary acts.

After this communication on the part of Sir A. Buchanan it would be impossible, Count Andrassy said, to attribute in any way to the phrase "local autonomy" the meaning of a transformation of the above-named countries into countries enjoying "political autonomy." Such a political autonomy would, under existing circumstances, appear to the Austro-Hungarian Government utterly incapable of realization.

According to the opinion of the British Government analogous guarantees should be demanded from Bulgaria, which could be defined later, and would be adapted to local conditions, in order to prevent in future the return of administrative abuses.

The Austro-Hungarian Government having taken into consideration the formal declarations on the subject made by Her Majesty's Government, was prepared to give, in principle, its complete consent to the proposals which had been communicated. They only desired that it should be formally recorded that the reforms already required from the Porte for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and accepted by the Ottoman Government, should form the base of the "local autonomy."

If Her Majesty's Government thought it necessary, it could propose, as a complement to the said reforms, amplifications of the same nature.

Count Wolkenstein said that he had been instructed to ascertain whether the views and intentions of Her Majesty's Government were identical with those expressed in this telegram. If he found them to be so he was authorized to declare that the Austro-Hungarian Government agreed in principle with the British proposals, and that if Her Majesty's Government desired it they would, on their side, be prepared to abstain from taking any initiative, and would be equally ready to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government.

In my reply to Count Wolkenstein I adverted to the desire expressed by the Austro-Hungarian Government that the reforms already required of the Porte, and agreed to by it for Bosnia and Herzegovina, should form the basis of the local autonomy now to be granted to those Provinces, and I said that I did not understand how these reforms, as stated in the note from the Porte of the 13th of December last, would form the basis of a system of local government, though it seemed to me that they might be included in any plan which might be drawn up for the purpose of carrying out that system.

Upon this point Count Wolkenstein promised to give me further explanation.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 324.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 21, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration, in communication with the Governments of the other Powers, signatories of the Treaty of Paris, the conditions of peace between the Porte and Servia, and Montenegro, proposed by the Turkish Government for the judgment and equitable appreciation of the mediating Powers.

Those proposals were as follows:—

1. A new investiture of the Prince of Servia, if the Servians wish to keep him as their Ruler.

2. Recognition of right to occupy fortresses; but the Porte will be willing to negotiate with respect to the effect to be given to it.

3. Payment by Servia of the interest on the sum spent by Turkey in the war, which is estimated at about 1,000,000*l.*

4. Railway through Servia; to be worked by a Turkish Company; but if this proposal is objected to by the Powers, Porte is prepared to submit.

5. Limitation of Servian regular army, and the entire suppression of the militia.

The Porte has stated, according to your Excellency's telegram of 14th instant, that with regard to Montenegro, it will accept the *status quo*; and as soon as the Powers have expressed their judgment in the conditions, the Porte will give orders to stop hostilities

* Substance telegraphed.

within twenty-four hours; and friendly relations will be resumed with the two Principalities.

I have already intimated to your Excellency by telegraph, that Her Majesty's Government held the proposals of the Porte to be inadmissible; and I have since learned that the other Powers are of the same opinion.

I have now, therefore, to request your Excellency to inform the Porte of this, and to state that the following are the provisions which seem to Her Majesty's Government proper to form the basis of a pacification:—

1. The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

2. That the Porte should simultaneously undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and the Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy by which is to be understood a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against maladministration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

Your Excellency will add that the reforms already agreed to by the Porte in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th of February last, will be expected to be included in the administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and, so far as they may be applicable, for Bulgaria.

Your Excellency is already acquainted by telegraph with the views of the other Powers, and you may state to the Turkish Government that Her Majesty's Government have little doubt that the proposals which you are instructed to make will command a general support.

Your Excellency cannot too strongly impress upon the Porte the urgency of the situation and the advantage which would be gained by a prompt and ready acceptance of the proposed basis of pacification.

You will also state that, as the continuance of hostilities while the conditions of peace are being dealt with between the Powers and the Porte would be obviously inexpedient, an early arrangement should be made for the conclusion of a formal armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 325.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Macdonell.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 21, 1876.*

I HAVE received to-day your telegram in which you stated that you had been informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that, as Count Andrassy's proposals for the bases of pacification have only reached Berlin on the 20th instant, the German Government declined to adhere as yet formally to the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government, and were, indeed, apparently disposed to advocate larger concessions to the insurgent provinces in the direction of autonomy.

I should wish you to state to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that, in the present position of affairs, the immediate signification of the concurrence of the German Government in the proposals of Her Majesty's Government need not be retarded in consequence of the communication to them of Count Andrassy's proposals, as the Austro-Hungarian Government and that of Her Majesty are now acting entirely in concert.

Count Wolkenstein gave to me to-day a copy of a telegram which he had received, in which Count Andrassy informed him that, being satisfied with the formal declaration which had been given to him by Sir A. Buchanan as to the meaning which Her Majesty's Government attached to the phrase "local autonomy," he gave the complete consent of the Austro-Hungarian Government to the principle of the British proposals, desiring only that the reforms for the Provinces agreed to by the Porte in December last should form the basis of the local autonomy.

Count Wolkenstein's communication is recorded at length in my despatch to Sir A. Buchanan of to-day, copy of which is inclosed in my preceding despatch.

It appearing to Her Majesty's Government that Count Andrassy's suggestion as to the December reforms might well be accepted, I have inserted a paragraph in the proposals which Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to lay

before the Porte, in which it is stipulated that the reforms to which the Porte has already agreed shall be included in the new arrangements to be made for the administration of the Provinces.

The views of the two Governments have thus been brought into perfect harmony, and, under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government trust that the German Government will no longer hesitate to direct the German Representative at Constantinople to support their proposals.

I have to instruct you, in speaking in this sense, to urge strongly the importance of an immediate decision, as time is of the utmost consequence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 326.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 4, 1876.*

THE inclosed article from the Greek newspaper, the "Neologos," which is by far the most important and independent of those published here, and which has also, I am told, a considerable circulation in Greece, deserves your Lordship's attention.

It expresses accurately the feelings entertained by the Greeks of Constantinople with regard to the policy of Great Britain and Russia, and it bears testimony to the service that has been rendered to the Christians by the presence of Her Majesty's fleet at Besika.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 326.

Extract from the "Neologos."

ENGLISH POLICY IN THE EAST.—The length and material difficulty of double translation have compelled us to defer, until to-day, the publication of the following admirable exposition of the present aspect of the Eastern question, which we extract from the "Neologos," the leading Greek journal of Constantinople:—

[From the "Neologos" of August 25.]

"We published yesterday an article from the 'Nord,' in which official or national Russia attacks English policy, to which it attributes the existing crisis in the East. It will not be inopportune, in our opinion, to cast a glance at the past, to inquire into the causes which have brought about this crisis, as well as into the real policy of Great Britain, and the consequences which have resulted from it.

"For a long time back the Slav impulse has been secretly fostered, and, under the very eyes of the Ottoman Government, at times by pamphlets and missionaries coming from Moscow and St. Petersburgh. It several times alternately broke out and was quelled; when, finally, last year, the north-western Turkish provinces, all surrounded by the Slav populations of Austria, Servia and Montenegro, were chosen for the centre of its action. And a very good choice it was both in a military and political view. On one side the revolt could be perpetuated by outward help; on the other, by being abandoned to Panslavism, Austrian policy could become a means of action. Owing to the position of the revolted provinces, Europe would be frightened at the prospect of a European war, and the other Slav populations of Turkey thus be left at liberty to take up arms, and leisurely prepare to enter the lists.

"The secret diplomacy of the 'North,' the national diplomacy, had ably played its game; now was the time for official diplomacy to come in. Its work had long been traced out: it lay in the inauguration of the intervention principle in Turkey, a principle abolished by the Treaty of Paris, and the protraction of the struggle. All concessions to the revolted provinces made spontaneously by Turkey, without the intervention of diplomacy, were declared null and void; the rebels were led to believe themselves a Power in presence of a Power, the more so as, albeit diplomacy put a pressure on Turkey to accept its propositions, it left the rebels free to reject or to alter them. The Andrassy Memorandum, so ostentatiously and rattlingly announced, was rejected by the rebels.

despite the assurance of its acceptance, given by the official and semi-official press of the three Empires.

"M. Basilewsky was suddenly chosen by them as their representative, and the three Cabinets heard their propositions through him. All this deliberation ended in the Berlin Memorandum; in other words, in a vehement intervention in Turkish affairs. The revolt was prolonged; the rebels were set up into belligerents; and, lastly, a vague threat of material intervention, menacing to impair European peace, loomed ominously in the distance. Servia and Montenegro in the meanwhile prepared for the struggle, and the unfortunate Bulgarians thrust themselves deep into the revolt, in order to lure the serpent out of its nest. Efforts were made to stir up other populations, and the expiration of the two months' armistice fixed by the Berlin Memorandum was to have been the commencement of a general rising in the East.

"But do not let us deceive ourselves. The Berlin Memorandum was no more applicable to the Porte than it was acceptable to the insurgents. It would, by fanning the national and religious *amour-propre* of the Turks, have driven them to despair and madness, and the Christians, consequently, to a general rising. The fever of national *amour-propre* began to show itself among the Turks towards the last days of Abdul-Aziz's reign, when the news of the drawing-up of the Berlin Memorandum reached them. Massacre and devastation showed that the time so ardently longed for by the Panslavic policy had come at last; all was ripe, and had it not been for England's refusal to join in the Berlin Note, for Sir Henry Elliot's energetic action, and for Abdul-Aziz's deposition in the name of progress and reform, this longed-for hour indeed had struck.

"Panslavic policy cannot, therefore, forgive England the wreck of all its hopes. Hence the origin of its grievances, so ably unfolded in order to work up public opinion in England. The atrocities in Bulgaria have supplied it a splendid opportunity, and it made the best of it. The policy of the Disraeli Government was blamed, and the English Ambassador in Constantinople was blamed for having, owing to his Turkish sympathies, led his Government into error, by withholding from them the massacres and atrocities that had taken place.

"The impudence of the Panslavic organs is really unparalleled. The unfortunate but imprudent Bulgarians were driven by them into a destructive struggle. They were excited by them to havoc and massacre, and the only possible excuse for the savage and barbarous acts of the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks was again furnished by them, for they brought about these horrible reprisals. And while no official remonstrance was made by the Northern Powers to the Porte, the Panslavic organs accuse Sir Henry Elliot, who, in spite of all that has been said in Parliament, has never since last May ceased from transmitting to his Government all the information that could be gathered on the subject, although he naturally was slow in believing the exaggerations of the Panslavic organs.

"Perhaps those who so bitterly attack the English Ambassador hardly know how information, coming in from different quarters in these times, should be warily and cautiously accepted as reliable and authentic. In Constantinople itself such dark rumours were daily circulated that it was only a piece of luck that the mutual distrust between the Mussulmans and Christians did not bring about a desperate struggle. Indeed, such was the object of the policy which set these rumours afloat, and its agents, after having caused the rising in Bulgaria, seized every opportunity for magnifying the most insignificant fact. The English Ambassador naturally distrusted information whose drift was opposition to English policy. Something more positive and authentic was required by him on the subject of the atrocities. Unfortunately England had very few agents in Bulgaria, and consequently there was a great dearth of information.

"Sir H. Elliot, however, did not fail to inquire into facts among Bulgarians themselves, and acting on his own responsibility, as well as by order of the Foreign Office, he remonstrated strongly and forcibly with the Turkish Government, and insisted on the immediate cessation of the atrocities. Indignation and pity have reached their climax in England, and her Ambassador now requests the Turkish Government to recall the gangs of irregulars. But England is only doing her duty, it is said, as she has taken Turkey under her protection by not accepting the Berlin Memorandum, and by sending her fleet to Besika Bay. After Lord Derby's and Mr. Disraeli's explanations, those who can read will be sufficiently enlightened as to the motives which have suggested these measures. England does not entertain a Platonic affection for Turkey, but she will not allow any kind of foreign intervention in the East, and will have the Eastern Question solved by the Eastern races, and solved in their own favour. It was for the sake of seeing this idea realised, in her own interest as well as in that of Europe, that England had undertaken the Crimean war, together with France. It is on the same principle that

she works to-day, and it is against this principle that the policy, inaugurated in Berlin, of everlasting intervention in favour of the successively rising races, was chiefly directed. The result of such intervention would have been to make the people of the East a tool in the hands of foreign ambition.

"Unfortunately the last twenty years' experience has dealt a heavy blow to English policy. The Turkish Government, heedless of all its promises of reform, only tried to ward off the evil hour, and show itself to Europe and its European creditors in a deceitfully prosperous condition.

"The policy adopted by the Tory Government under the present circumstances has deeply felt the terrible effects of past Turkish misrule. Mr. Disraeli has, it is true, succeeded with his shrewdness and cutting sarcasm, in eluding the difficult problems set before him by Mr. Gladstone, the Marquis of Hartington, and Mr. Ashley, who one after another exposed to him the decay, the misery, the non-applied reforms, the murders, the cruelty in the Turkish Empire. But the moral authority by which Lord Palmerston thundered against the Manchester school, and generally against all opponents of the Crimean war, was wrecked in Turkey's past and present history.

"The two Tory leaders Disraeli and Derby have been obliged, one in the House of Commons and the other in the House of Lords, to own and admit that the decline of Turkey is fast approaching. Generally, however, we consider their conclusions much more politic than Mr. Gladstone's, notwithstanding his eloquent speech on Eastern affairs. But the former have shown that, besides the feelings of benevolence and justice by which the leaders of the Opposition were actuated, the great and vital interest of the future of European civilization must be taken into consideration. While the members of the Gladstone party, impelled by the interests of commerce, and by the principles of the Manchester school, arrived at the partial conclusion, so earnestly desired by the Three Northern Powers, that the present conflagration must be extinguished, Mr. Disraeli and Lord Derby, actuated by higher motives, were of opinion that the Eastern question should be solved in a definitive and general manner, by the general improvement, we naturally conclude of the Turkish Administration, and the condition of the Eastern populations. Nor has the Tory Government limited itself to words alone. The British Ambassador here has unceasingly censured abuses, and by the skilful and courageous execution of his difficult and dangerous task, has ensured the adoption of several energetic measures without which the Servian war would very likely have given rise to atrocities more dreadful than those we have already heard of.

"The presence of the fleet at Besika Bay, by checking the fever and the thirst for revenge of the Turkish people, who looked upon the Berlin Note as a European crusade against Islamism, has perhaps saved the East from complete ruin.

"English policy has, in short, effectually extinguished the general conflagration which would surely have broken out in the East had the Berlin note been accepted, involving, perhaps, all Europe in a war. By her prudent policy England has limited it to Turkey, and two Slav Principalities.

"The results of the Northern policy can be summed up as follows: the strengthening of the insurrection in Bosnia and Herzegovina by intervention; the spreading of revolutionary ideas; the fanning of the passions of races and religions; the paralysis of Turkish administration; the revolt in Bulgaria, followed by cruelty and murder; and finally the Servian war. The results of the English policy thus: constant advice to Turkey for the concession of reforms; Imperial Decrees spreading these reforms throughout the country; no encouragement to revolutionary ideas; the censure of abuses; the prevention of probable excesses; the impressing on the Turks of the necessity of a better and more European form of government; the acquirement of a moral right for the supervision and application of reforms; the limitation of the war between Turkey and Servia, and the office of intercession in reserve for European Powers, when such intercession would be called for. Such are the results of the two diametrically opposed policies. But as some will have it the policy of England is only negative, and does not bring about a solution. We believe, however, that it rests with Turkey to prove the contrary, and to justify English policy. The question is now clear and well defined. The preservation of the *status quo* in the East is closely linked with, or rather depends on, the improved condition of the Christian populations. It is evident by Mr. Disraeli's last words to the House of Commons, before Parliament was prorogued, that England is now trying a last experiment for the preservation of the *status quo*, and in this her policy is positive, and even very positive. We will now close the above statement by quoting Mr. Disraeli's words on the subject:—

"'The Government of the Porte was never at all misled by the arrival of our fleet in Besika Bay. They were perfectly well aware why that fleet came there. It was not

to prop up any decaying or obsolete Government, nor did its presence there permit England to sanction any of those enormities which have been the subject of our painful discussion to-night. What may be the fate of the Eastern part of Europe it would be arrogant for me to speculate upon, and if I had any thoughts I trust I should not be so imprudent or so indiscreet as to take this opportunity of expressing them. And I am sure that as long as England is ruled by English parties, who understand the principles upon which our Empire is founded, and who are resolved to maintain that Empire, I am sure that our influence in that part of the world can never be looked upon with indifference. If it happen that the Government that influences the greater part of these fair lands proves to be incompetent for that purpose, neither England nor any of the Great Powers will shrink from fulfilling the high political and moral duty which will then fall upon us. But we must not jump at conclusions so quickly as is now the fashion. There is nothing to justify us in attacking in such a fashion all Turkey at this moment. The state of affairs requires the most vigilant examination and the most careful management, but those who suppose that England ever, or at this moment particularly, is upholding Turkey from a blind superstition, and from a want of sympathy with the higher aspirations of humanity, are deceived. What our duty is at this moment is to maintain the empire of England. Nor will we ever agree to any step, though it may obtain for a moment comparative quiet and a false prosperity, that hazards the the existence of that Empire.'

"We shall pass no comment on these words; let those who are concerned in them carefully weigh and consider them."

No. 327.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 8, 1876.

THE ceremony of the Sultan's investiture with the Sword of Omer, by which he obtains the Caliphate, or spiritual headship of all true believers in the Prophet, took place yesterday at the Mausoleum of Eyoub.

After the religious ceremony His Majesty proceeded on horseback, in accordance with the traditional custom, to Top Capou, or the old Seraglio, through Stamboul, preceded by all the chief officials (with the exception of the Grand Vizier, who was too unwell to be present). On passing the tent which had been set apart for the use of the Diplomatic Body, the Sultan sent a courteous message to me, as Doyen, expressing his gratification at our presence on the occasion.

The Mosque of Eyoub is regarded as the most sacred of the capital, and is situated outside the walls, along which the procession passed till it entered the town by the Adrianople gate, from whence it proceeded to the Mosque of Sultan Selim, where His Majesty alighted and paid his devotions at the tomb of his father, Sultan Abdul Medjid, and this act was repeated at the Mosque of Mahomet the Conqueror.

The Sultan then continued to the old Seraglio, where he received the homage of the chief dignitaries of the State, and returned by water to the Palace of Dolme Baghtche, which he reached at half-past 6 o'clock, having left at 10 in the morning.

The ceremony was remarkable for the absence of all military display.

The Sultan had not even an ordinary escort, but rode alone between the lines of unarmed attendants on foot.

Everything passed in the most perfect order, but with the absence of all appearance of enthusiasm.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 328.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 8, 1876.

A FRENCH copy of the inclosed despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy was communicated to Safvet Pasha, who transmitted it to the Council now sitting at the Porte for inquiry into the affairs of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 328.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bourgas, August 26*, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the news I receive from the interior—this caza and those of Karnabad and Aidos—continues to be disheartening. On every side the Bulgarians are robbed, beaten or killed by their Circassian or Turkish neighbours. The rayahs are in many places afraid to go to their fields to plough, or to the mill to get their corn ground. The Mussulmans of all races seem to consider that it is lawful to despoil the "infidel" in every way, and if the "infidel" dare to resist to murder him.

My brother writes to me from our farm of Djeverli, giving me information of about 150 sheep and goats having been stolen within the last eight or ten days by Circassians from four Christian villages near us, and of a shepherd killed at the village of Tellal-keui, about six miles from Djeverli, by Turks who came to steal his sheep. He tells me also that he hears of many other crimes and robberies in that neighbourhood, but does not know the particulars of them, as rayahs are afraid to go from one village to another, and consequently news of this kind may take a week to travel three miles.

The Circassians now carry off sheep and goats by droves, and in broad daylight. The police who have been sent in some instances to prevent their robberies seem to be powerless.

Unless stringent measures of a kind different from those as yet adopted in the district I have mentioned are enforced, neither agriculture nor wool-growing will be possible to the rayah; and if Bulgarians are prevented from tilling their fields and tending their sheep, it is easy to imagine what will be the loss to the Turkish exchequer.

The murder of the shepherd of Tellal-keui, a man named Slav-oglou Wulczo, seems to have been a particularly cruel one. He and a companion (who escaped) were watching their flocks on the night of the 18th or 19th August, when some persons (I have not heard how many) came to him and demanded either 60 sheep or his promise to pay them the value. As he refused to do either one or the other they killed him. His body was found with the jaw-bone smashed and the teeth all knocked out. A knife had been passed through the throat, not so as to cut it thoroughly, but as one of my "gardes champêtres" told me, "to stick him like—I beg your pardon for naming the animal ('seuzum yabana') —a pig."

From the Jews of Yamboli I hear that the passage of Mr. Baring and other foreign Commissioners has produced a good effect in that town. Turks who during the reign of terror extorted money from, or otherwise maltreated, their Christian fellow-townsmen are in some cases being prosecuted by the latter, and six or seven of the principal offenders are in prison. Though I fear that this effect may be only temporary, or even confined to the town itself, I cannot help regretting that the Royal and other Commissioners were not instructed to visit the cazas of Bourgas, Karnabad, Aidos and Kizil Aghadj; for if in these districts there have only occurred as yet more or less isolated cases of assassination, still robbery, extortion and spoliation are the order of the day, and I fear that at any time these minor crimes may be eclipsed by murder on a larger scale. I beg your Excellency to understand that in venturing to write thus strongly on this subject, I express myself as one who has lived for years amongst rayah and Turkish peasantry, and who may therefore be perhaps able to judge of the sentiments which now animate the dominant class as represented by the latter.

I am happy to be able to say that at least some Mussulman officials and private gentlemen have distinguished themselves from the mass by protecting to the best of their power—though that power was too often limited by circumstances—the innocent Christian subjects of the Sultan.

Amongst those whom I hear most highly spoken of are:—at Slimnia, the present Mutessarif, Haidar Bey; the Cadi; and Ahmet Effendi, President of the Tribunal of Commerce:—at Yamboli, Hafiz Aga:—at Karnabad, the Kaïmaikam, Ismail Bey; and Rustem Aga:—at Aidos, Ibrahim Aga.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 329.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 8, 1876.

YOUR Lordship's telegram of the 6th instant reached me late the same night, but as the investiture of Sultan Abdul Hamid was to take place the following day it was not possible to communicate it to the Porte.

I therefore telegraphed to your Lordship that the only chance of obtaining the consent of the Turkish Ministers to the armistice would rest, in my opinion, upon my being able to give them some intimation of the conditions of peace which Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to support, and by satisfying them that its terms would not be incompatible with the interests and honour of the country.

Should an armistice once be agreed to, the Great Powers are not likely to permit a renewal of hostilities, and the Porte feels, as I have already stated to your Lordship, that the effect of its acceptance must be to leave this country under the necessity of accepting any peace which the Mediating Powers chose to impose, and for this reason any intimation likely to satisfy the Porte that Her Majesty's Government would afford this support to equitable conditions, would be of great assistance in obtaining its consent to the proposed armistice.

I should have asked the Turkish Ministers themselves to state the conditions of peace that they would expect, but I was restrained from doing so by the consideration that while the instructions of Her Majesty's Government were that I should strongly urge, as I have not ceased doing, their acceptance of the armistice, an invitation to them to state their terms might be taken as an encouragement to adopt a different course from that suggested by your Lordship.

Various statements, more or less accredited, have been made in regard to the conditions the Porte proposes to put forward; and in the private letter, herewith inclosed in copy, by which I have to-day communicated to Safvet Pasha the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 6th, and urged him not to reject the advice of Her Majesty's Government, I alluded to these supposed terms, and endeavoured to dissuade the Porte from adopting them.

I had done so verbally on several occasions, for although the right of the Porte to demand something in addition to the *status quo ante* cannot in justice be contested, the immediate conclusion of peace, by the offer of terms against which no one could say a word, is a consideration of still more paramount importance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 329.

Sir H. Elliot to Safvet Pasha.

Mon cher Ministre, *Therapia, le* 8 *Septembre*, 1876.

SANS la cérémonie d'hier je serais venu vous communiquer le télégramme suivant que j'avais reçu de mon Gouvernement.

Si l'armistice est rejeté le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté ne pourra rien faire de plus pour conjurer la ruine que les Ottomans auraient amenée sur l'Empire, car il est impossible d'exagérer la gravité de la situation. Tous les combattants doivent être compris dans la suspension des hostilités. Les négociations de la paix seront commencées immédiatement sur la conclusion de l'armistice.

Vous voyez, mon cher Ministre, quelle est la position des choses, et, avec toute connaissance de cause et amplement avertis de ce qui va arriver, vous paraissez disposés à exposer votre pays à des désastres dont personne ne pourra prévoir l'étendue.

On prétend aussi que non-seulement vous allez rejeter l'armistice, mais que vous voulez mettre en avant des conditions de paix qui la rendront impossible.

C'est vrai que ces conditions ne me sont point encore données comme authentiques, et je ne veux pas les accepter comme tels. Je vous demanderai, cependant, si la dignité d'une Grande Puissance comme la Turquie sera le mieux consultée en offrant des conditions dont la modération sera reconnue ou en émettant des prétentions qu'elle sera certainement obligée plus tard de retirer.

En d'autres mots, ne sera-t-il pas plus avantageux pour vous que la paix soit faite sur vos propres conditions plutôt que de la voir imposée par l'Europe, comme il arrivera

certainement si vous insistez sur des conditions telles que la déchéance du Prince Milan, l'occupation des forteresses, une indemnité de guerre, l'exploitation par la Porte d'un chemin de fer en Serbie, la limitation du nombre de la milice, et que ne sais-je encore!

Soyez sûr, mon cher Ministre, qu'en repoussant les conseils de vos amis vous les rendez impuissants à vous soutenir, et vous faites la partie belle pour ceux qui sont animés de dispositions moins favorables.

Mon Gouvernement a fait ce qu'il a pu dans vos intérêts, et il continuera à le faire à moins que vous ne soyez décidés à paralyser ses efforts.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) HENRY ELLIOT.

(Translation.)

My dear Minister, *Therapia, September* 8, 1876.

HAD it not been for yesterday's ceremony, I should have come to communicate to you the following telegram, which I have received from my Government.

If the armistice is refused the Government of Her Majesty can do no more to avert the ruin which the Ottomans will have brought upon the Empire, for it is impossible to exaggerate the gravity of the situation.

All combatants should be included in the suspension of hostilities.

The negotiations for a peace will be undertaken immediately on the conclusion of an armistice.

You see, my dear Minister, what the state of things is, and, with a full knowledge of the circumstances, and of what will happen, you seem disposed to expose your country to disasters, the extent of which no one can foresee.

It is said, moreover, that not only are you about to refuse the armistice, but that you propose to advance such conditions as will make peace possible.

It is true that these conditions have not yet been made known to me as authentic, and I will not, therefore, accept them as such. I will put it to you, however, whether it would not be more in conformity with the dignity of a great Power like Turkey to offer conditions, the moderation of which would be recognized, than to advance pretensions which will certainly have to be withdrawn hereafter.

In other words, would it not be more advantageous for you that peace should be made upon your own conditions rather than that it should be forced upon you by Europe, as will certainly be the case should you insist upon such conditions as the deposition of Prince Milan, the occupation of the fortresses, the working by the Porte of a railroad in Servia, the limitation of the number of the militia, and what not besides?

You may be certain, dear Minister, that by rejecting the advice of your friends, you render them powerless to support you, and are playing the game of those who are not so favourably disposed towards you.

My Government has done what it could in your interests, and will continue to do so unless you are determined to paralyse its efforts.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 330.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby—(*Received September* 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 9, 1876.

THE Austrian and German Ambassadors called upon me yesterday together to ask me what I thought would be the answer of the Porte to the proposal of mediation made by the Great Powers.

I said that I could not tell, but that I had just sent a letter to Safvet Pasha urging the Porte in the strongest terms that I could employ not to reject the proposal.

It was easy, however, to gather from their language and manner, especially those of the German Ambassador, that they had not much faith in my assurances.

Baron Werther spoke of the assurances received by his Government from London that Her Majesty's Government were urging an acceptance of the mediation, in a tone which could only mean that he saw no evidence of it here.

Count Zichy having called upon me alone this afternoon, I spoke to him of the suspicion which I thought I had detected in his mind, and in that of Baron Werther, the day before, and he scarcely denied it.

Mr. Sandison, whom I had sent to the Porte to speak in the same sense as my

letter to Safvet Pasha, a copy of which I knew him to have with him, came in while we were talking. I told him to put it into Count Zichy's hands, that he might judge for himself of the language I was using, and when he had read it I asked whether it was possible to speak more strongly.

He almost apologized for having felt any doubt, and declared that neither he nor any of his colleagues would have ventured to put the matter in such strong terms, and he thanked me repeatedly, not only for having shown him the letter, but for having written it.

He begged me so earnestly to let him have a copy of it, and spoke so much of the satisfaction that it would give Count Andrassy to have this undoubted evidence of what the action of Her Majesty's Embassy had really been, that I allowed him confidentially to have one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 331.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of an instruction which I gave to Mr. Sandison in consequence of an application from Safvet Pasha that I would let him know my opinion of the conditions upon which peace might be made.

Not being acquainted with your Lordship's views, I have rather pointed out the objections to the conditions which seem to be resolved upon by the Porte than given any opinion of my own.

I have, however, thrown out the suggestion that the question of a war indemnity and that of the railway through Servia might, perhaps, be so combined as to be acceptable to both parties as well as likely to be seen with approbation by Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 331.

Instruction to Mr. Sandison respecting Conditions of Peace proposed by Porte.

IN reply to Safvet Pasha's request that I would give him my opinion respecting the conditions upon which peace might be made, Mr. Sandison will state that I am without instructions from Her Majesty's Government on the subject, and that I can, therefore, only express my own individual views; upon one point, however, I can state with confidence the opinion of Her Majesty's Government. They are so much impressed with the importance of the hostilities being brought to an end that they consider the immediate attainment of that object far more essential than anything else, and as this could at once be secured by a declaration on the part of Turkey that she would be ready to make peace on the basis of the state of things existing before the war, Her Majesty's Government, and all the true friends of this country, would wish to see the Porte adopt this course.

Some of the conditions about to be asked by the Porte are either of no practical utility, or else of a nature to give rise to long discussion, after a compliance with them is refused by Servia.

The demand that there should be a new investiture of Prince Milan, if the Servian people wish that he should continue to govern them, can be of no practical benefit to the Porte, and would, in my opinion, be injurious to its interests. Prince Milan was personally more inclined to a pacific policy than the party opposed to His Highness, which would take advantage of any opportunity of upsetting him, and thus rendering the future relations of the Principality with the Porte more precarious than if Prince Milan were to remain undisturbed.

The recognition of the right of the Porte to re-occupy the fortresses will certainly be resisted by Servia, and probably objected to by some of the Guaranteeing Powers. By insisting upon it the arrangement of a basis of peace would be endangered.

If it is meant that the recognition of this right should be merely theoretical it should be accompanied by a declaration on the part of the Porte that it will be prepared to waive it if peace is made at once.

The payment by Servia of the interest on the war expenses of the Porte would, in addition to the tribute, amount to a heavier sum than, I believe, it would be possible for the Principality to provide, and if a war indemnity is to be required something less onerous should be proposed.

The demand that the railway through Servia shall be worked by a Turkish Company appears to me wholly inadmissible, and even at variance with the provisions of the Treaties which guarantee the internal administrative independence of the Principality.

An arrangement might, without difficulty, be made by which a war indemnity and the construction of the railway might be combined.

The state of the Servian finances makes the construction of the railway a matter of difficulty.

The Porte might demand that the indemnity shall be directed to that purpose, and that the railway shall be finished within a fixed time.

Although this is a mere personal opinion it would, I think, be likely to be supported by the Powers, and it would secure to Turkey the completion of a work which will be of more benefit to her than a money payment.

The suppression of the militia and limitation of the army are not conditions that should be put forward. The militia is a new part of the regular institutions of the country, and, with a regular army of very few thousand men, it is reasonable that a militia should be maintained.

Mr. Sandison will say to Safvet Pasha that I see little, in such of the conditions as can be regarded as acceptable, that appears at all requisite for the interests of Turkey, and that certainly no benefit can be expected from them to counterbalance the objection to demands being made which must defer and endanger the conclusion of peace.

(Signed) H. E.

September 9, 1876.

No. 332.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Therapic, September* 10, 1876.

YOUR Lordship is in possession of the letter by which I pressed upon Safvet Pasha the proposed mediation of the Powers.

I failed in my attempt to see the Ministers, in order personally to urge its acceptance upon them, although I had left home very early for that purpose, and I then directed Mr. Sandison to speak in my name in the strongest possible manner; and as I was only incompletely acquainted with the conditions upon which it was understood that the Porte proposed to make their acceptance of any mediation depend, I directed him to ask to be informed what those conditions were.

Mr. Sandison found that the decision not to agree to an armistice had been taken past recall,—the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and Safvet Pasha, being all prepared, if necessary, to place their resignation in the hands of the Sultan rather than be parties to an act which they look upon as fatal to the country.

If it had been possible to give the Porte even a general idea of the basis of the peace which the Powers would have to mediate upon after the conclusion of the armistice, there might, perhaps, have been some faint chance of obtaining a more favourable answer.

The Porte was again, on this occasion, distinctly given to understand that if it rejects the offered mediation, and an attack on the part of any Power were to ensue, no support from Her Majesty's Government is to be expected by it.

It was informed that if, on the contrary, the mediation is accepted, the Sultan's Government may be assured that no efforts will be wanting on the part of that of Her Majesty to procure the conclusion of a peace by which the Empire should not suffer either in its interests or its dignity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 333.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 11, 1876.

I HAVE made another effort to prevent the Porte's refusal to accept the mediation for an armistice from being as decided as there was reason to fear that it would be.

All arguments had been exhausted without avail by myself and my colleagues to induce its acceptance, and it being evidently useless to endeavour further to obtain it directly, all that remained was to look for an indirect mode by which the desired result might be arrived at.

I went therefore this morning to Safvet Pasha's house, where he repeated to me the irrevocable resolution of the Turkish Government not to consent to an armistice, but to insist upon certain conditions upon the acceptance of which by the Powers they would agree to a mediation for concluding peace.

I pointed out all the disastrous consequences of such a course.

Much time must be lost before the Powers could come to an understanding among themselves respecting the merits of these conditions, many of which they would certainly reject, thus giving rise to fresh negotiations with the Porte and entailing an indefinite delay, while hostilities would continue and every day bring us nearer to the moment when some active intervention from one quarter or another would take place.

I suggested that if the Porte unfortunately persisted in sending a negative answer to the proposal made by the Powers it should accompany it by a declaration to the following effect:—

"We will willingly, however, accept the mediation of the Powers for the conclusion of peace.

"The conditions which we consider the Sublime Porte entitled to expect are, &c.:

(Here follow the conditions.)

"As soon as we are informed that the Allied Powers will take these conditions into their consideration with the feelings of justice which animate them, we shall be ready to put an immediate stop to hostilities."

It appeared to me that a statement to this effect would amount very nearly to all that is required.

The demands would not be put forward as a *sine quâ non* condition of the acceptance of the mediation.

The Powers would not be asked to accept or even give an opinion upon them, and they could hardly refuse to say that they would take into consideration conditions which they will be free to accept, modify, or altogether reject while negotiating the peace.

After long discussion, Safvet Pasha said that, for himself, he would be ready to adopt the form I suggested, and begged me to go to the Porte to propose it to Midhat Pasha and the Grand Vizier.

I did so, and succeeded in getting their approval without much difficulty, except upon the point relating to the right to re-occupy the fortresses.

With regard to this, they insisted that although the exercise of the right might not be practicable, if it were waived some other material guarantee should be found to replace it, accompanied by the temporary occupation of Zaitchar or Kniajevatz, or some other place now in possession of the Imperial troops.

I represented that if they maintained this pretension it would go near to strike at the root of the principle of my suggestion, which was that they should accept unreservedly the mediation of the Powers on the understanding that their expectations should receive the consideration to which they were entitled, but trusting to the equitable disposition with which the Powers will be animated.

By putting forward any one demand to be regarded as a *sine quâ non* condition of the acceptance of the mediation, the object that was to be kept in view would be defeated.

They ultimately appeared to give way, and there is good hope that the form I suggested will be adopted; but the Ministers are alarmed at the outcry of indignation to which they will be exposed, and may perhaps endeavour to cover their responsibility by submitting the question to a Grand Council, in which case the prospect of a favourable decision will be less than if it were to pass only through the Council of Ministers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 334.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 12, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch from Acting Vice-Consul Calvert on the state of things in the district of Philippopoli.

An extract of it has been sent to the Porte.

I may take this opportunity of informing your Lordship that either copies, or the substance, of the reports of Her Majesty's Consuls, which contain any fresh matter respecting the abuses in Bulgaria, are regularly communicated to the Porte, which sends them to the Commission which is sitting to inquire into them.

I likewise inclose the copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy on the same subject.

I was informed yesterday that, having received the Report of the Commissioners sent to inquire into the excesses committed in Bulgaria during the late troubles in that Province, the Porte has ordered the immediate trial and arrest of the principal leaders of the Bashi-Bazouks.

The Vali of Adrianople is dismissed for having placed arms in the hands of the Mussulman population, or rather for having maintained that measure longer than necessary; but the Grand Vizier asserts that the person really responsible was Mahmoud Pasha, who, acting under the influence of the Russian Ambassador, refused to send the troops applied for by the authorities which would have prevented the necessity of the employment of irregulars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 334.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, September* 6, 1876.

ALTHOUGH I have been upwards of a week in charge of the British Vice-Consulate at Philippopolis, I have been detained up to the present day from reporting to your Excellency on the general state of affairs in this district. I experienced at first some difficulty in obtaining information on which I could rely owing to the fact that I was unassisted by any regular interpreter, and I was loth to communicate to your Excellency information which might subsequently prove to be inaccurate or unfounded.

I can now state, however, that the leading members of the local administration are exerting themselves apparently in a conscientious manner with a view of doing justice to the Christian peasants whose live stock and other property were scattered or stolen during the late troubles. But they have to contend with obstacles which are not easily overcome. For the Mussulman peasants it is a matter of small difficulty to evade restitution of the plundered property. Cattle and goods are passed on to people from distant villages, or are sold to travelling purchasers who find this a highly-lucrative kind of traffic. Circassians are the principal agents by whom it is carried on. Returning from the seat of war with, say 50 or 100 head of cattle, and a certificate from head-quarters to the effect that the animals are duly captured booty of war, they sell off the herd in the first town that affords them a market, but the certificate remains in their possession, and, pursuing their journey southwards, they buy from the Mussulman peasants who played the part of Bashi-Bazouks to the recent insurrection an equal number of stolen cattle, which the certificate above-mentioned enables them to resell with impunity to the larger towns. Thus great numbers of cattle are lost to their owners beyond recovery. In other cases, I am told, Christian peasants trying to identify and claim back their cattle are scared away by the attitude of the Turks, who threaten to shoot them if they approach. It is true the Governor of Philippopolis has issued notice that if at the expiration of a fortnight any stolen cattle are discovered in the possession of persons to whom they do not rightly belong, such persons will be imprisoned, but I do not believe that the police force at his disposal is sufficient to carry this threat into execution, even if, at the expiration of the term allowed, there be any cattle left in the hands of the original plunderers.

On the other hand, I am glad to be able to say that all the live stock which, abandoned by or stolen from its owners, the authorities have succeeded in collecting, is being duly restored. The only exception made is the case of cattle belonging to persons who

are still in prison. In one instance, 14,000 sheep, belonging to different people of Avrat-Alan, and which had been taken charge of by the Government here, were given back the other day.

In connection with this act of justice, I was told of an incident, afterwards confirmed to me in every particular by the Pasha, which may be worth relating to your Excellency, as showing the amount of sympathy in each other's misfortunes entertained by the Bulgarian Christians. The Commission which has to examine the claims of the villagers before returning the sheep, demanded of the owners, who are mostly tolerably well off, a sum of 80,000 piastres,—the amount which they calculated the sheep had cost the Government during the four months they had been under its protection; but the Governor liberally cancelled this charge, and, more than this, informed the villagers of Avrat-Alan that there stood to their credit a sum of 30,000 piastres, the value of the milk and wool yielded by the sheep during the four months of their detention. He asked, however, that as this was a sum which they had never dreamt of coming into possession of, they would charitably leave it to be devoted to the relief of their destitute brethren;—the people of Avrat-Alan actually refused to accept this arrangement.

People arriving here from the districts ravaged by Bashi-Bazouks speak of widespread distress and destitution prevailing there, and state that help is urgently needed by the peasantry to enable them to rebuild their homes and provide against the coming winter; and I can the more readily believe this as villagers are continually coming to me with the most heart-rending tales of distress. I am informed that fever and dysentery have broken out in many of the villages, caused by insufficiency of food and exposure. At Peroustitza, for instance, only two-and-a-half hours from here, most of the inhabitants have nothing to eat but black bread of the coarsest kind and grapes. Their dwellings being destroyed, they have no protection against the heavy night dews, and, in consequence, numbers of them are afflicted with typhoid and other fevers. The authorities are unable to alleviate the suffering to any appreciable extent, owing to the scarcity of medical men. In all Philippopolis there are only two certificated doctors, and, as far as I can ascertain, not one is to be found anywhere except in one or two of the large towns of the sandjak. All the Philippopolis authorities could do to relieve the sick at Peroustitza was to send thither last week a quack doctor for a couple of days, with a small supply of drugs.

Private charity in Philippopolis is doing a little to mitigate the worst cases of destitution. A relief committee has been formed among the European residents, a subscription set on foot, and temporary asylums established here and at Bazardjik. Some twenty or thirty families have thus been provided for; but this number is utterly insignificant relatively to the existing distress, and the necessity of granting liberal pecuniary aid cannot be too urgently impressed on the Turkish Government.

As regards the individuals alleged to have been implicated in the rising, out of the 900 whom Mr. Baring found in confinement here 104 remain unsentenced in the prison of Philippopolis. I have no doubt that even of these but a small proportion are guilty.

The charges against the majority, it is true, are supported by written confessions signed by the accused themselves, or by depositions sworn to by other parties; but I am disposed to attach little or no value to such evidence, because the testimony of numerous eye witnesses, and of persons who themselves suffered what they related, agrees that violent means were used to extort the required confessions. This, it must be remembered, was at the beginning of the troubles, and I am assured that these practices have now ceased.

The most usual mode of eliciting confessions were:—Beating, keeping the prisoners for days in a box or cage—a kind of "little ease"—in which he could neither sit, stand, nor lie down; and chaining by the neck to the prison wall by means of an iron collar, which was raised higher by slow degrees until the prisoner could save himself from strangulation only by resting the tips of his toes on the floor. In one case, that of three men from Tchirpan, at whose examination I was present the other day, the fact of violence having been used was confirmed to me by a Turk, who declared to me that the men had been beaten by one Said Agha, an influential Bey of Tchirpan, concerning whom I shall have probably more to communicate to your Excellency on a future occasion.

The hope of extorting money is also, unless I am greatly deceived, another cause which is retarding the liberation of some of the prisoners. I am assured by the relatives of these individuals that they have received notice repeatedly that the liberation of their friends may be obtained by the payment of a bribe, and that they would willingly pay the money could they be sure of securing the promised boon.

Against one functionary, in particular, I have heard a great number of complaints of this kind.

This is Hussein Effendi, Vice-President of the "Temiz-i-Honkouk," a Court of Appeal, and, I now learn, a brother of my cavass.

I have, in my intercourse with the local authorities, urged upon them strongly the necessity of hastening on the trials of the Bulgarian prisoners, as well as the advisability of showing leniency, even where guilt is discovered, pointing out to them that the just indignation raised throughout the civilized world, and especially in England, by the accounts of the fearful repression that had been inflicted on the Bulgarian insurgents, can only be softened by unmistakeable evidence that the authorities in this province are sincerely desirous of redeeming all injuries and grievances.

I added that I should always be happy to have to report to your Excellency any facts that might tend to show that such a desire existed.

Both the Mutessarif and the Mollah, or Supreme Judge of Philippopolis, are, as far as I can at present give an opinion, upright men; both are tolerant and favourably inclined towards the Christians. Of this fact there can hardly be better proof than that they are unpopular with a large section of the Mussulman community, who are just now in a high state of fanatical irritation.

Having been invited by the Governor to attend the sittings of the Temiz-i-Honkouk before which the prisoners were brought up for final examination, I assisted on Monday last at the trial of twelve men from Nevrokop (Vilayet of Salonica), whose preliminary examination took place at Serres, and who were sent to a trial by the Special Commission under Salem Effendi, but arrived after that Commission had been dissolved.

I cannot say much for the proceedings, which, in a judicial point of view seemed to me ludicrously incomplete, but there was certainly a show of moderation on the part of the judges. The prisoners were divided into batches of two or three, against each of which there was a separate indictment. The indictment having been read, the prisoners named therein were called into Court, and told in a few words by the President, what the charges against them were. These, which, save in the case of one man accused of murder, were not of a serious nature, were invariably denied by the prisoners; even those who had signed confessions of guilt, declaring that they had been compelled to do so. The prisoners were then removed, and the minutes of these preliminaries were read to the Court, which thereupon proceeded to deliberate as to its verdict; eight of the men were acquitted, and the other four were remanded, to be sent back to Serres, in order to be there examined afresh. I could not see that the charges against the latter, save to the one case I have mentioned, were more serious or better substantiated than the case of the eight men acquitted. I may state here that the Philippopolis Court of Appeal is only competent to deliver sentence not exceeding one year's imprisonment; graver cases have to be referred to Adrianople, and if the sentence must exceed three years' imprisonment, to Constantinople.

The proceedings on Monday ended with the examination of three individuals from Tchirpan, accused of collecting money, and distributing arms on behalf of the Revolutionary Committees. These men likewise pleaded innocence, declaring that they had been coerced into an avowal of guilt by Said Agah, the notable of Tchirpan, whom I have mentioned in another part of this despatch. The tribunal finding itself incompetent to determine whether these men came within the category of those to whom an amnesty has been recently extended, decided to refer the matter to Adrianople, and I have written to Mr. Dupuis, Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at that town, to recommend their case to his attention.

No further cases are to be tried this week. The minutes of the preliminary proceedings against the prisoners, are, I am told, being now examined with a view to fixing the order of the trials. But I am assured that from next week forward, the cases will be disposed of expeditiously.

I propose to assist at every sitting of the Court, and will regularly report the proceedings to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. S. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 834.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bourgas, September* 9, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, having lately heard at Bourgas more or less circumstantial stories of outrages (wholesale massacres of women and children, a man flayed alive, girls carried away, &c.) committed by Bashi-Bazouks in the out-of-the-way mountain villages of the Caza of Slimnia, in the month of May last, when a band of insurgents appeared in the neighbourhood, I thought it my duty to ascertain how far these reports were correct, and I therefore started last week, accompanied by my brother, for the localities in which these outrages were said to have occurred.

The result of my inquiries appears to me to prove that the authorities of Slimnia, aware of the error committed by employing undisciplined and uncontrollable hordes of Turks and Circassians, took the speediest and (as far as the very limited military force at their disposal permitted) the most efficacious measures to prevent the consequences of the mistake.

The particular crimes I have alluded to were not, I am happy to say, committed in the district which I visited; and although, short of these, the Bashi-Bazouks committed every species of excess, the conduct of the civil authorities generally, of most of the officers commanding regular troops, and of some private individuals (also Mussulmans) is worthy of the greatest praise.

I will endeavour to report to your Excellency, in as concise a form as is consistent with clearness, what really occurred in the Slimnia Balkan towards the end of May last.

On the 9th of May a band of Bulgarians (twenty-eight to thirty-two in number), diversely armed, but all with revolvers, appeared at early dawn in the village of Neko-keui, about twelve miles from Slimnia, situated in a heavily-timbered and very mountainous country, intersected by deep ravines. The first man they met was Slav Hadji Stefanoff, and him they ordered to join them: "understanding what it meant," this man, under pretence of getting his gun, went to his house, took his wife and children to the forest, and ran to the village of Bashkeui (two hours distant) to give information.

In the meantime, the insurgents giving out that they were the advanced guard of a corps of 15,000, compelled twenty-four men to join them, and forced the village priest to bless their standard, and the cause of Bulgarian liberty. After remaining here some hours, during which time the new recruits were confined and guarded within the walls of the churchyard, and the remaining men fled with the women and children to the mountain, they left.

From Bashkeui messengers had been sent, immediately upon the arrival of Slav, to warn the Governors of Slimnia (six hours distant) and of Cazan two hours distant, in the Sandjak of Tirnova); a little after midday the insurgents reached Bashkeui, from which the three or four policemen had already run away, and where the only Turks were three strangers from Osman Pazar, selling flour; one of these men pointed his gun at the insurgents, the weapon missed fire, and he was immediately shot down. The other two escaped by flight, and were concealed by a Bulgarian named Niccolaki Bazardjikli.

In this village sixteen more Bulgarians were compelled to enlist; and a man returning from Cazan with a note to the inhabitants of Bashkeui, asking them to give information as to the number and movements of the rebels, was intercepted by the latter, and told to go back and say that they would come to Cazan and take fifty men from there. After a stay of five or six hours, they left and went to the hills, the men of Neko-keui and Bashkeui deserting them as soon as they could, some returning to their villages the same evening.

The insurgents were seen no more till the morning of Sunday (the 21st instant), when they were perceived by regulars and Bashi-Bazouks a mile or two from Neko-keui. From this village the soldiers took a man to call out to those Bulgarians who had been taken by force to come to them, without fear; five from Bashkeui (the eleven others had already escaped) made a rush, and, although fired upon by the rebels, were able to join the soldiers, who handed them over to the irregulars of Slimnia and Karnabad, with strict injunctions that they should not be harmed. As soon as the soldiers were a little distance away, the Bashi-Bazouks killed these men, and cut their heads off.

The insurgents (and amongst them two peasants of Neko-keui, who, it is said, were unable to make their escape with the other forced levies) were quickly shot down or dispersed, and the irregulars then poured into the village (Neko-keui, 100 houses) whence the peasantry had again fled, and commenced an indiscriminate plunder.*

* At this village a sergeant in command of twenty or thirty irregulars from the Caza of Tirnova turned back with his men, saying, that he had come to fight, not to plunder.

The Turks, Yakoub and Shaban, of the neighbouring village of Kurmudji Tchiftlik, looted the village shop of goods to the value of 45 Turkish pounds, and the total value damage inflicted is estimated at 350 Turkish pounds. From here the irregulars were driven out by the troops who (a small party being left in the village) were marched to Bashkeui under the command of Captain (Yuzbachi) Sali Aga, and arrived there at 2 P.M.

At 5 o'clock a corps of 1,500 Turkish and Circassian Bashi-Bazouks, under the leadership of Appas Aga, of Karnabad, appeared before the village, and were met by Sali Aga and his 120 men and forbidden to enter. Appas Aga replied that "he had not come to hunt up insurgents but to sack Bashkeui;" and the Captain retorted that "he was there to defend it, and that he and his company must be killed before the village was stormed."

The irregulars then drew their knives and pistols, and Sali Aga, knowing the numerical inferiority of his troops, and fearing that a single Bashi-Bazouk shot would be the signal for a massacre of the Bulgarians, was obliged to allow the entrance of Appas Aga's band, which immediately began to break windows, plunder shops, enter houses, &c.

Shortly afterwards Eumer Aga, sent by the Mutessarif with a handful of soldiers, arrived, having met on the way a party of Bashi-Bazouks with a prisoner, Vassili, of Bashkeui, whom they were going to kill. This man's life was saved by Eumer Aga's declaring that the Bulgarian owed him money, and that their killing him would be a pecuniary loss to himself (Eumer Aga).

Sali Aga had now about 150 soldiers, and was reinforced further by the Governor (Mudir) of Cazan, Hadji Shaban Aga, who came with 100 irregulars from the Caza of Osman Pazar, to assist in preventing outrages. This force being still insufficient to turn out Appas Aga's men, *vi et armis*, stratagem was resorted to, and the Bashi-Bazouks were told that they could sack the village any day, but that the most pressing business for the moment was to pursue the rebels. This arrangement being assented to, the troops marched out first, followed by the irregulars, the rear being brought up by Hadji Shaban and his 100 Turks.

When some little distance from the town the Bashi-Bazouks were informed that there were no more insurgents to pursue, and that they must all return to their homes. Finding themselves between two fires they dispersed, but remained for many days in the vicinity; waiting, as they said, for the arrival of Chefket Pasha, and consequent orders to kill and plunder. During this time they pillaged and destroyed flour, fulling and carding mills in the vicinage; they had also taken with them a lad from Neko-keui, who was then working as a mason at Bash-keui (the son of a man named Georghi), and who was never afterwards seen alive or dead.

The next evening (Monday, 22nd) another party of irregulars appeared, under the command of Magyar Pehlivan of the Belikeuileri, near Slimnia, and proceeded to the house of Nicolaki (the man who had hidden the two Turks from Osman Pazar) and tied him up with the Mayor (Mukhtar) and two or three others. Sali Aga, the captain, vainly attempted to get Nicolaki released, and Magyar Pehlivan, not contented with the number of his prisoners, took by force—his men drawing their weapons upon the soldiers—the eleven Bulgarians who had been carried by, and who ran away from the insurgents; these were under guard but not bound, and when they were tied up by Magyar Pehlivan to take to Slimnia, Sali Aga dispatched a messenger to acquaint the Mutessarif of that town with what had happened. For twenty days the same officer, who remained in the village with 100 men, placed look-outs (Bulgarians armed with sticks) upon the hills near, to give notice of the approach of any large body of irregulars.

The damage and loss inflicted upon Bashkeui (500 houses) is estimated at about 100,000 piastres.

At Catonista (eighty houses), one hour from Bashkeui, 300 to 500 Bashi-Bazouks appeared on the Sunday evening, and commenced plundering as usual; the villagers fled to the mountain, and, seeing troops advancing, called out to them to hasten, as their village was being pillaged.

Here, again, the soldiers turned out the robbers, and, fortunately, before much damage, perhaps not more than 100 Turkish pounds' worth, was done. The Bashi-Bazouks fired some shots upon the peasants as these ran to the hills.

At Gradetch (two hours from Bashkeui), about 3,000 irregulars arrived, having murdered on their road two persons belonging to this village, Matteo (the doctor) and a shepherd named Slav, who was with him, as well as another shepherd (Stoian of Indjikeui: the two last-named have left twelve small children, who are now dependent

on the charity of their neighbours. An hour after the Bashi-Bazouks, 51 soldiers arrived, and patrolled the village, which did not suffer much on this occasion, except that, during the four days, it had to feed the 3,000 men, who were "waiting for Chefket Pasha."

At Papasskeui (230 houses, of which 10 are Turkish), two hours from Gradetch, Bashi-Bazouks commenced to pour in on the 22nd, slept there that night; on Tuesday their numbers amounted to between 2,000 and 3,000. Most unfortunately, the soldiers arrived there too late, and, before they came, nearly everything portable was carried away, and most of the women outraged; from the latter violence, not more than ten houses, if so many, escaped.

On the Tuesday evening, appeared Sheker Zadé Mehmet Aga of Slimnia (since dead), with a few soldiers, and was joined by Hadji Shaban, the Mudir of Cazan, and his 100 men, and the irregulars were got out of the village, but only to encamp upon the neighbouring heights for a week, "waiting for Chefket Pasha;" the neighbouring Turkish villages sent their carts to carry away the plunder, and, for the time I have mentioned, the village had to feed from 2,000 to 4,000 men.

The pecuniary loss to Papasskeui, judging from a long but very incomplete list which I possess, cannot be less, and is probably more, than 2,000 Turkish pounds. The priest Stefan, whose wife was outraged, his house five times broken into, and himself made to dance in his priest's clothes, has gone out of his mind. Many of the men I saw seem to be afflicted with a sort of melancholy madness, and all say that they wish their lives had not been spared.

I shall have the honour of forwarding the conclusion of this report by next week's mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 335.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of the Imperial Hatt issued by Sultan Abdul Hamid II.

It confirms the present Ministers in their offices; it decrees the formation of a General Council; it abolishes the custom of constant and unnecessary removal of officials from their posts; it declares the necessity of administrative, financial, and Imperial reform; and, finally, it enjoins measures for the immediate pacification of the insurgent provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 335.

Imperial Hatt.

(Traduction officielle.)

Mon Illustre Vézir, Mehmed Ruchdi Pacha,

NOTRE frère bien-aimé, le Sultan Mourad V, ayant dû, par la volonté de la Providence, abandonner les rênes de l'Etat et le Kalifat, Nous sommes monté sur le trône de Nos augustes ancêtres, conformément à la loi Ottomane.

Vu votre patriotisme connu et éprouvé, votre intelligence parfaite des grands intérêts d'Etat, Nous vous confirmons dans la haute charge de Grand Vézir et de Président du Conseil des Ministres. Nous maintenons également tous les Ministres et tous les fonctionnaires dans leurs postes respectifs.

Notre confiance dans l'aide et dans l'assistance du Très-Haut est sans limites en toutes choses et en toutes circonstances. Nous n'avons d'autres désirs et d'autre pensée que de consolider les bases sur lesquelles reposent la grandeur et la gloire de notre Empire et d'assurer à tous nos sujets, sans exception, les bienfaits de la liberté, du repos et de la justice. Nous avons plein espoir et la conviction que tous Nos Ministres et tous les fonctionnaires de Notre Empire ne manqueront pas d'y contribuer à leur tour en se conformant à Notre exemple.

Les origines et les causes de la crise que Notre Empire traverse aujourd'hui et qui se reproduit sous des formes diverses, sont, il est vrai, multiples ; mais, de quelque côté qu'elles soient envisagées, elles se résument en un seul point, à savoir : l'exécution imparfaite des lois qui découlent des prescriptions suprêmes du Cher'i, base fondamentale de Notre Empire et l'arbitraire que chacun a adopté, pour ainsi dire, comme règle dans la conduite des affaires.

En effet, si les irrégularités dont se ressentent depuis quelque temps l'administration et les finances de notre pays se sont développées au point où elles sont ; si l'opinion publique se montre méfiant à l'endroit de notre crédit ; si les tribunaux ne sont pas encore arrivés à garantir les droits des particuliers ; s'il n'a pas encore été possible de tirer profit des ressources naturelles que tout le monde reconnaît à notre pays pour l'industrie, le commerce et l'agriculture, ces sources fécondes du bien-être et de la prospérité générale ; si, enfin, toutes les mesures qui ont été adoptés jusqu'à présent, tant dans l'intérêt du pays qu'en vue d'assurer à tous mes sujets, sans exception, les bienfaits de la liberté individuelle, n'ont pu prendre plus de consistance malgré les intentions sincères qui les avaient dictées, ni aboutir, à travers les variations et les changements successifs, au but qu'on s'est proposé, tout cela ne doit être atrribué qu'à une seule cause, à savoir, que les lois n'ont pas été régulièrement et constamment observées.

C'est là, en conséquence, qu'il s'agirait aujourd'hui de placer le point de départ des mesures qu'il est urgent d'adopter pour asseoir les lois et les règlements du pays sur des bases qui inspirent la confiance.

A cet effet, il est indispensable de procéder à l'institution d'un Conseil Général dont les actes inspireront toute confiance à la nation et seront en harmonie avec les mœurs et les aptitudes des populations de l'Empire. Ce Conseil aura pour mandat de garantir sans exception l'exécution fidèle des lois existantes ou de celles qui seront promulguées conformément aux dispositions du Cher'i, aux besoins réels et légitimes du pays et de la nation, et de contrôler l'équilibre des recettes et des dépenses de l'Empire.

Le Conseil des Ministres est chargé de se livrer à une étude approfondie de cette importante question et de me soumettre le résultat de ses délibérations.

Un autre empêchement à la bonne exécution des lois et des règlements c'est la facilité avec laquelle les fonctions publiques sont souvent confiées à des mains incompétentes, et cette circonstance que les employés sont l'objet de changements fréquents et non justifiés par des motifs légitimes, ce qui entraîne de très-sérieux inconvénients et pour l'Etat et pour les affaires.

Désormais, toute charge et toute fonction publique constitueront une carrière spéciale. Employer dans les affaires de l'Etat des personnes capables et compétentes ; ne tolérer aucune destitution ou remplacement non motivé ; établir la responsabilité graduelle des fonctionnaires de tout ordre, chacun en ce qui le concerne, c'est là la règle invariable qu'il convient d'adopter.

Les progrès matériels et moraux que tout le monde s'accorde à reconnaître chez les nations Européennes se sont accomplies grâce à la diffusion des sciences et de l'instruction. Or, comme par leur intelligence et leurs dispositions naturelles, mes sujets de toute classe ont à tous les égards, je suis heureux de le constater, des aptitudes spéciales pour le progrès, et que la propagation de l'instruction constitue, à mes yeux, une question aussi vitale que pressante, vous aviserez sans aucun retard aux moyens d'assurer ce résultat important en élevant le chiffre des allocations budgétaires dans une proportion suffisante et dans la mesure du possible.

En outre, il faut procéder immédiatement à la réforme administrative, financière et judiciaire des provinces, afin de leur créer une situation réellement normale et conforme aux bases qui seront adoptées pour l'organisation centrale.

Aux troubles qui ont éclaté l'année dernière en Herzégovine et Bosnie sur l'instigation de gens mal-intentionnés, est venue s'ajouter la rébellion de la Serbie. Considérant que le sang versé de part et d'autre est celui des enfants d'une même patrie, nous sommes profondément affligé de la continuation de cet état de choses. Vous aurez donc à prendre les mesures les plus efficaces pour mettre fin à une situation aussi déplorable.

Nous confirmons tous les Traités conclus avec les Puissances amies. Tout en maintenant leur exécution fidèle, vous vous attacherez à consolider de plus en plus les rapports d'amitié que Nous entretenons avec ces Puissances.

Tels sont, en substance, mes vœux, telles sont mes intentions.

Que le Tout-Puissant daigne couronner de succès Nos efforts !

Donné Dimanche, 23 Chaban, 1293 (10 Septembre, 1876, N.S.).

(Translation.)

(Official translation.)

My Illustrious Vizier, Mehmed Ruchdi Pasha,

OUR well-beloved brother, the Sultan Murad V, having been forced, by the will of Providence, to give up the reins of the State and the Caliphate, we have ascended the throne of our august ancestors in conformity with the Ottoman Law.

Knowing your well-known and tried patriotism, your perfect knowledge of the great interests of the State, we confirm you in the high post of Grand Vizier and President of the Council of Ministers. We confirm likewise all the Ministers and all the functionaries in their respective posts.

We have boundless confidence in the aid and assistance of the Almighty in all things and under all circumstances. We have no other desire nor thought than to consolidate the bases on which rest the grandeur and glory of our Empire, and to secure to all our subjects, without exception, the benefits of liberty, peace, and justice. We have the full hope and conviction that all our Ministers and all the officials in our Empire will on their side not fail to contribute to this result in conformity with our example.

The origin and causes of the crisis through which our Empire is now passing, and which reproduces itself under different forms, are, it is true, manifold; but from whatever side they are regarded they may all be summed up under one head, viz., the imperfect execution of the laws which spring from the supreme edicts of the Cheri, which is the fundamental base of our Empire, and the absolutism which every one has adopted, so to speak, as their rule in the conduct of affairs.

If, indeed, the irregularities, of which for some time past now the administration and finances of our country have felt the effects, have reached their present pitch; if public opinion shows itself distrustful with respect to our credit; if the tribunals have not yet arrived at securing the rights of individuals; if it has not been yet possible to turn to account the natural resources which all the world allow that our country possesses, for industry, commerce, and agriculture, these fruitful sources of welfare and general prosperity; if, lastly, all the measures hitherto adopted, as well in the interests of the country as with a view to secure to all my subjects, without exception, the benefits of individual liberty, have not acquired more consistency in spite of the sincere intentions which dictated them, nor attained the proposed result, through a succession of variations and changes, all this can only be attributed to one cause, and that is, that the laws have not been regularly and constantly observed.

This, therefore, should be the starting-place to-day for the measures which it is urgent should be adopted to settle the laws and regulations of the country on bases calculated to inspire confidence.

For this purpose it is indispensable to proceed to the establishment of a General Council whose acts shall inspire the nation with all confidence, and shall be in accordance with the customs and capacities of the population of the Empire. This Council will have for its mission to guarantee, without exception, the faithful execution of the existing laws, or of those which shall be promulgated in accordance with the dispositions of the Cher'i, and with the real and legitimate wants of the country and nation, and to control the balance of the receipts and expenditure of the Empire.

The Council of Ministers is instructed to devote itself to a profound study of this important question, and to submit to me the result of its deliberations.

Another obstacle to the good execution of the laws and regulations is the facility with which public duties are often entrusted to incompetent hands, and, further, the fact that they, the employés, are the object of frequent changes without any sufficient or legitimate reason, which entails very serious inconveniences both for the State and the transaction of business.

Henceforth every public office and function shall constitute a special career. To employ in the affairs of the State capable and competent persons; to tolerate no dismissal or unjustified removal from office; to establish gradually the responsibility of all kinds of functionaries, each in his respective sphere, this is the invariable rule to be adopted.

The material and moral progress that all the world agrees in recognising among European nations has been brought about, thanks to the spread of science and education. Now, as by their intelligence and natural dispositions, my subjects of all classes have in all respects, I am happy to state, special capacities for progress, and as the spread of education constitutes, in my eyes, a question as vital as it is pressing, you will take counsel without delay as to the best means of securing this important result by raising the amount of the supplies for allowances in a sufficient proportion and within possible limits.

Further, the administrative, financial, and judicial reforms of the provinces must be proceeded with immediately, so as to create for them a really normal position, and in conformity with the bases which shall be adopted for the central organization.

In addition to the troubles which broke out last year in Herzegovina and Bosnia, at the instigation of evilly-disposed persons, the rebellion of Servia has come upon us. Considering that the blood shed on both sides is that of the children of one and the same country, we are deeply distressed by the continuance of this state of things. You will therefore have to take most effective measures to put an end to such a deplorable situation.

We confirm all Treaties concluded with the friendly Powers. While maintaining the faithful execution of them, you will make it your endeavour to consolidate more and more the relations of friendship which we entertain with those Powers.

Such are, in substance, my wishes, such my intentions. May the Almighty deign to crown our efforts with success!

Sunday, 23 Chaban, 1293 (September 10, 1876, N.S.)

No. 336.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 13, 1876.

THE question of granting Bulgarian autonomy appears to be beginning to be discussed in England, where it does not seem to be understood that the Bulgarians are not a people inhabiting a geographically defined province.

The province marked on the map as Bulgaria, which is the only one that can be looked upon as geographically possible to trace, is the district lying to the north of the range of the Balkans, which does not comprise the parts where the worst excesses were committed in the suppression of the late insurrection.

South of the Balkans no natural line could be found, and the large Bulgarian populations would be left in a state of perpetual discontent at their exclusion from autonomic arrangements made in favour of their countrymen to the north of the mountains.

The Turks will never entertain the idea of granting an independent administration to a province over which, with a view to the defence of their Danube frontier, it is essential for them to have direct control; and if the question should unfortunately be raised by persons of influence in England, the future tranquillity of the province will be rendered more precarious than ever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No 337.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 13, 1876.

I INCLOSE copies of the despatches which I have received from Sir Arnold Kemball.

As soon as the telegram, of which he sends the transcript, reached me, I directed Mr. Sandison strongly to represent to the Porte the necessity of causing a stop to be put to the depredations of the Bashi-Bazouks, reminding it of the warning given by your Lordship that a repetition in Servia of the excesses committed in Bulgaria would inevitably lead to a European intervention.

The Grand Vizier was not at the Porte; but Mr. Sandison, having delivered my message to Midhat Pasha, found his Highness anxious that the severest measures should be adopted to bring the irregulars under proper discipline.

At Midhat Pasha's request, Mr. Sandison went to the Minister of War, who, in his presence, sent stringent orders to the Commander-in-chief directing him to put the Bashi-Bazouks under proper officers, stating that he would be responsible for all future excesses committed by them, and alluding to the effect they would produce on public opinion in Europe.

I have but little faith in the efficiency of these orders, and will continue to press the

adoption of the remedies proposed by Sir Arnold Kemball in his telegram, of which a copy is inclosed in his first despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 337.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Nisch, September* 5, 1876.

YOUR Excellency will have learnt by my telegrams that, prior to the receipt of your despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I had been in communication with the superior Turkish officers in camp on the subject of the excesses committed by the irregular troops of this army.

I need not trouble your Excellency with an account of the arguments on the ground of humanity, of good policy, of respect for the usages and opinions of civilized nations, and, finally, of military self-interest, which I employed in order to enforce my views. It was urged, of course, in reply, that the Servians had been the aggressors, and had commenced the work of devastation, and that terrorism would more surely lead them to repent the consequences of their own acts, and to sue for peace.

I could not avoid the conviction that the speakers had unquestionably approved the policy thus initiated, but that they had not appreciated the issues it involved, nor the uncontrollable character of the instruments employed. To my interpretation of their professions of amendment as mere empty words, with the reflection that if that interpretation were realized the effect would be greatly to aggravate their responsibility, they confessed their inability to guarantee complete reform under the existing conditions, and they must leave it to the Government who had organized the evil to supply a remedy.

After my interview here with the Generalissimo (yesterday evening), I have this morning telegraphed to your Excellency the only remedy of which, in their opinion, as in my own, the case is susceptible.

One instance will suffice to illustrate the nature of the contract, whether tacit or otherwise, concluded between the authorities and the irregular troops. While the Circassians are driving herds of oxen and flocks of sheep to the rear, the regular soldiers remain without meat, occasionally without food. They have not eaten meat in this campaign twice in the month. I saw the "sened" signed, directing the Treasurer to pay so many piastres for so many sheep, purchased for the use of the army, and this, too, after a smaller price had been tendered and declined.

The Circassians form an excellent light cavalry, and perform admirably the duties of scouts, "éclaireurs," &c. They are brave and reliable, and amenable, under proper management, to control. The Bashi-Bazouks of every other class, more especially the Arnaouts and Zeibeks, are worthless as soldiers.

M. Ristics, so far as my experience goes, is certainly in error in supposing "que les Tcherkesses et les Bachi-Bozouks ont été organisés en escouades d'incendiaires," &c., &c. These marauders need neither organization nor petroleum to perfect their native art in this respect. Nor is it true "qu'ils sont commandés par des officiers," &c., in the sense implied. Officers have been appointed as mediums of communication to direct their military services, receive their reports, regulate the issue of rations, and generally for administrative purposes. The Government is, perhaps, not the less responsible for their original "consigne," which they execute independently.

My closest inquiries have failed to discover the sale or appropriation of women and girls as concubines or slaves in this army.

No wounded men or prisoners have been mutilated or maltreated within my cognizance. Their number, since my arrival, has been limited to eight or nine, of whom one only was wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 337.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Nisch, September 5, 1876.*

TURKISH superior officers virtually have admitted inability to suppress Bashi-Bazouk excesses. Outward profession mere nothing. Porte set stone rolling, Porte alone can stop it. Remedy is this. Circassians being effective soldiers, retain them, but cancel contract and substitute good pay for plunder. Sternly suppress all other Bashi-Bazouks. Resume rifles supplied them by Government and send them home. No compromise here save on terms approximating conditions of enlistment. Proclaim change. Invite peaceable inhabitants remain home, and guarantee security persons and property. Want here General of advanced ideas and determined character with full powers. If promise unexecuted hostile critics would surcharge perfidy on cruelty. Please secure extension leave Mr. Dougall. We will return to the camp to-morrow.

Inclosure 3 in No. 337.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Nisch, September 5, 1876.*

MY telegrams from camp have acquainted your Excellency with the operations of the Turkish expeditionary army since my arrival at Head-quarters on Monday, 28th ultimo. On that day a Servian division with artillery assailed the right front of the Turkish position occupied by the brigades of Fezli Pasha and Rifaat Pasha. Their object seemed throughout the day to be directed merely to harass the camp, which here had been slightly retired and strengthened by intrenchments since the more serious engagements of the previous Saturday. The troops on neither side advanced beyond the ravines which separated their lines.

Finding that the Servian works covering Alexinatz were unassailable by direct attack, Ahmed Eyoub Pasha determined on Tuesday morning (29th) to cross the Morava and unite his force with that of Ali Saib Pasha on the heights bordering the plain on the left bank of the river. The valley here is three miles wide, narrowing in a north-westerly direction to two miles opposite to Alexinatz.* Thence it appears again to open out in the direction of Deligrad, and the course of the river throughout to approach the base of the heights on the right side of the valley.

The passage of the river occupied Tuesday and Wednesday, and was effected by means of a trestle-bridge,† and a bridge of open wooden pontoons, with a deepish ford between them, without the slightest interruption from the enemy. Two days, Wednesday and Thursday, were occupied (or lost) in re-examining the position of a Servian division strongly intrenched on heights parallel to those occupied by Ali Saib Pasha's corps, which corps the division in question had repeatedly assailed with sufficient effect to necessitate its being reinforced by seven battalions from Ahmed Eyoub Pasha's army.

The action on Friday consisted in turning the right flank of the Servian position, and involved a considerable détour round the head of the ravine (opening on the plain of the Morava Valley) which separated the combatants.

It commenced at 8·30 A.M., and for four hours was restricted to an artillery engagement between the battteries, at a distance varying from 3,500 to 4,500 mètres, the preponderance of metal being on the side of the Servians, and of number of pieces, three to one, on the side of the Turks. At a little after noon the infantry came into action; their assault was spirited and well sustained, but the resistance of the enemy, availing himself of the woods, and fighting behind intrenchments, or cover commanding open spaces, was sufficiently steady and persistent to protract the engagement until dark. It was 9 P.M. before firing ceased. The retreat of the enemy within the lines of Alexinatz was not molested. He lost one gun‡ and three prisoners only. Of the artillery fire I have only to observe that, though the Servian batteries appeared often to be temporarily silenced, one of their guns only was dismounted, while in the Turkish batteries I believe hardly a man was wounded. The little effect produced by what, to

* The heights everywhere are generally well clothed with oak plantations and thick underwood. Wood therefore abundant.

† The trestles were constructed on the spot, the boat pontoons at Miramor, and thence floated down the river. Miramor is composed of two good-sized villages, the one Circassian, the other Rayah, on left bank of Morava, near its confluence with the Nissa.

‡ A bronze 8- or 9-pounder short rifled gun of Servian manufacture.

observers, appeared to be excellent practice, more especially on the part of the Turks, i to be only accounted for by the fact that the fire being direct from batteries crowning heights, and the soil being black loam, the shells, armed with percussion and not with time fuzes, instead of grazing, invariably imbedded themselves and burst innocuously. On the following morning at daylight I traversed with my Aide-de-camp the whole battle-field,* and the result of my observation in respect of dead and wounded is stated in my telegram. The Turkish official report subsequently gave 100 to be added to the list of Friday. The loss of the Servians could not be ascertained, but must have exceeded that of the Turks.

The Turks commenced the action four hours too late.† They made no effort to throw up batteries in advance as the day progressed. They omitted, as was perfectly practicable, to send forward guns with the infantry, operating to turn the right flank of the enemy's position, and no steps whatever were taken with their large available reserves to engage the enemy's supports in the plain, and cut off his line of retreat.‡ Yet all these over-sights had been anticipated in the plan of attack, proposed by the Chief of Staff, which, had it been followed, must have compelled the enemy to retire by the upper road to Deligrad, and have issued probably in the loss of all his guns. As it is the victory has been barren of decisive results. The enemy is safely ensconced behind the lines of Alexinatz-Deligrad, with the Morava winding near the base of his position, and the Turkish army on the heights which bound the plain forming the valley of the Morava, on the left bank of the river, has passed four days idly observing him.

During the action of Friday the Servians detached six battalions with guns from Alexinatz up the right bank of the Morava, on the road to Nisch, but the movement being observed, was speedily checked by the advance of a similar force from the camp up the left bank of the river, and by the detachment of a portion of the garrison of Nisch to co-operate against it.

I should mention here that on crossing from the right to the left bank of the Morava on the morning of Wednesday, 30th August, Ahmed Eyoub Pasha detached six battalions of infantry and one battery to reinforce permanently the garrison of Nisch.

It only remains for me to explain the discrepancy between the Turkish official returns and the number as telegraphed by me of killed and wounded in the two engagements which took place prior to my joining the camp. My estimate, which is rather under than over the mark, should have comprised the losses also sustained by Ali Saib Pasha's corps during the same week, and more especially by the division of Hafiz Pasha, which in an advanced position sustained for three days consecutively the repeated attacks of a Servian division.

The united Turkish force now observing Alexinatz, deducting the six battalions and battery detached to Nisch, losses in the field, and sick and wounded in hospital, may be roundly estimated at 30,000 regulars of all arms, with 120 guns.§

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. R. KEMBALL.

No. 338.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a report which I have received from Her Majesty's Consular Agent at Rodosto, upon the occurrences which have taken place during the last four months in the neighbourhood of that town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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* Two considerable villages on the slope of the hill, near the centre of the Servian position, we found in the hands of the Arnaouts. Before evening they had been reduced to ashes.

† Both parties appear to entertain an excessive dread of losing guns.

‡ One of the two batteries in the village held by these supports proved to have been mined.

§ In my telegram, dated August 25th, the strength of the artillery was erroneously stated at 188 guns. The mistake was inadvertently made by my informant on the staff, and could not be rectified until I joined the camp.

Inclosure in No. 338.

M. Dussi to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Rodosto, le 7 Septembre*, 1876.

J'AI reçu le télégramme que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 31 Août dernier pour m'apprendre l'avènement au trône du Sultan Hamid II. Cette nouvelle qui a été publiée le même jour par les autorités locales a été accueillie assez favorablement par la population.

Je profite de cette occasion pour donner à votre Excellence quelques détails sur les faits qui se sont produits dans les villages voisins depuis environ quatre mois.

Les volontaires et Circassiens au nombre de 132, lors de leur premier départ de Kéchan et Malgara, entrèrent dans les villages se trouvant sur leur route et principalement à Cara Gheunessi et Italaba Gheunessi, villages Bulgares, et profitant de la fuite des habitants qui avaient abandonné leurs maisons, à la vue de ces hordes, pour se refugier dans les forêts, ils pillèrent leurs habitations, toutefois sans commettre aucun crime de viol personnel, le Mutessarif de Rodosto ayant pris des mesures efficaces pour prévenir la continuation des désordres.

A la date du $\frac{12}{24}$ mois dernier Midhat Pacha avait demandé par télégraphe des informations à ce sujet. Le Mutessarif par sa réponse du même jour dissipa les inquiétudes de son Excellence.

Un autre incident à signaler à votre Excellence. Il y a environ cinquante jours sur la route de Malgara, dépendance de Rodosto, un jeune Arménien ivre essaya d'assouvir sa mauvaise passion sur une femme Turque qui se rendait avec deux autres à un village voisin; il fut arrêté, amené ici, jugé et condamné à neuf mois de prison. Aussitôt la nouvelle parvenue au Canton de Malgara, un Softa appartenant à ce village nommé Féizi, reconnu pour très fanatique, tâcha de soulever ses coreligionnaires en criant à haute voix dans une place publique des propos contre les Chrétiens et les invitant à la révolte contre eux.

Notre Mutessarif prévenu s'est rendu sur les lieux, en a rétabli l'ordre après avoir arrêté Féizi qui est actuellement écroué ici, quoique le Cadi veuille le protéger. Ayant fait hier une visite avec mon collègue de France au Gouverneur, nous avons pu saisir qu'il est très porté à punir Féizi, qui pourrait amener une émeute à son retour s'il ne subissait pas une exemplaire punition.

Le 2 du courant une quinzaine de zaptiehs appartenant à Rodosto ont arrêté six brigands Circassiens près du village Lofoular, Canton de Visa. Les Circassiens ayant opposé une vive résistance, il y a eu un combat à la suite duquel deux ont été blessés. Dans leur habitation il a été trouvé huit chevaux, des armes et beaucoup d'effets volés; tous ces objets ont été remis aux autorités de Visa, dépendance de Rodosto. Presque simultanément d'autres zaptiehs de la police de Rodosto en arrêtaient douze aux environs de Tzorlou et Bourgas, dont six Bohémiens, un Albanais, un Suruk et quatre Circassiens; ceux-ci avaient dévalisé un Grec Ottoman, venant de Tchorlou, plus un Arménien de Rodosto, auquel on avait pris 22 livres Turques, après l'avoir blessé; ils ont aussi volé une paire de bœufs d'une ferme.

Mercredi dernier entre Malgara et Haraboli des conducteurs de chariots chargés de céréales pour la dîme du Gouvernement ont été également dévalisés; on assure en outre que dans la plaine d'Ouvabeikoi, à une distance de quatre heures de Malgara, cinq chariots de manufacture ont été dévalisés.

Il ressort des plaintes de villageois qu'entre Scoular et Semetli 300 chevaux ont été volés depuis quatre mois.

Le Mutessarif, Izzet Bey, tâche de mettre fin à l'état actuel; malheureusement la police de cette ville est trop insuffisante pour pouvoir en remédier.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) M. DUSSI,

Agent Consulaire Britannique.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Rodosto, September 7*, 1876.

I HAVE received the telegram which your Excellency has done me the honour of sending me, dated the 31st August last, to acquaint me with the accession to the Throne of Sultan Hamid II. This intelligence, which was published the same day by the local authorities, was favourably received by the people.

I take advantage of this opportunity to give your Excellency some details respecting the events which have taken place in the neighbouring villages during the last four months.

The volunteers and Circassians, to the number of 132, at the time of their starting from Kéchan and Malgara, entered the villages lying on their road, and chiefly Cara Gheunessi and Italaba Gheunessi, Bulgarian villages, and, taking advantage of the flight of the inhabitants, who had abandoned their houses at the sight of these hordes, to take refuge in the forests, they pillaged their dwellings, without, however, committing any crime of personal violence, as the Mutessarif of Rodosto had taken effectual measures to prevent the continuance of these disorders.

On the $\frac{13}{24}$th of last month Midhat Pasha telegraphed for information on this subject. The Mutessarif by his reply of the same date dispelled the anxieties of his Excellency.

I have to point out another occurrence to your Excellency. About seven weeks since on the road to Malgara, a dependency of Rodosto, a young Armenian in a state intoxication tried to vent his evil passion on a Turkish women who was proceeding with two others to a neighbouring village; he was arrested, brought hither, judged, and condemned to nine months' imprisonment. As soon as the news reached the Canton of Malgara, a Softa called Féizi, belonging to this village, and known to be a great fanatic, tried to incite his co-religionists to rise, uttering loundly in a public place speeches against the Christians, and exciting his people to revolt against them.

Our Mutessarif being forewarned proceeded to the spot, and re-established order there, after having arrested Féizi, who is at present confined in the jail here, although the Cadi wishes to protect him. Having paid the Governor a visit yesterday, together with my French colleague, we have been able to discover that he is much inclined to punish Féizi, who might cause a disturbance on his return if he is not subjected to an exemplary punishment.

On the 2nd instant fifteen zaptiehs belonging to Rodosto arrested six Circassian brigands near the village of Lofoular, in the Canton of Visa. The Circassians having resisted strenuously, there was a struggle, in consequence of which two were wounded. In their dwelling were found eight horses, weapons, and many stolen goods; all these things were handed over to the authorities of Visa, a dependency of Rodosto. Nearly at the same time other zaptiehs of the Rodosto police arrested twelve of them near Tchorlou and Bourgas, of whom six were Bohemians, one an Albanian, one a Suruk, and four Circassians; these persons had robbed an Ottoman Greek who came from Tchorlou, also an Armenian of Rodosto, from whom had been taken 22 pounds Turkish after he had been wounded; they also stole a yoke of oxen from a farm.

Last Wednesday, between Malgara and Haraboli, the drivers of some carts loaded with grain for the Government tithe were likewise robbed; we are further informed that in the Plain of Ouvabeikoi, at four hours' journey from Malgara, five manufacturers' carts were robbed.

It appears from the complaints of the villagers that between Scoular and Semetli 300 horses have been stolen during the last four months.

The Mutessarif, Izzet Bey, endeavours to put an end to the present state of things; unfortunately the police of this town is too scanty to be able to remedy it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DUSSI,
British Consular Agent.

No. 339.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby. (*Received September* 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a letter from Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, describing the remarkable state of harmony existing between Mussulmans and Christians at Damascus, and stating that Sidon is the only place in Syria where the old spirit of Mussulman fanaticism still survives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 339.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Aleih, September* 4, 1876.

I AM very much pleased with the state of affairs at Damacus, where the Mussulmans are doing their utmost to gain the good-will and confidence of the Christians, greatly to the surprise and satisfaction of the latter, who have never seen, and never expected to see, such a state of things.

An influential Christian, who arrived yesterday from Damascus, told me that the Mussulmans, in their anxiety to be civil to the Christians, are ready to humiliate themselves before their Nazarene fellow-citizens in order to gain their esteem. Whether all this is sincere it is difficult to say, though I believe it is; at all events, it is establishing a very different order of things, which, in future, it will difficult to upset should any attempt be made to do so.

The only place in Syria of any importance where the old spirit of Mussulman fanaticism still displays itself with any degree of intensity is Sidon, and I am trying my utmost to bring the influence and example of Damascus and other places to bear upon these ignorant fanatics, with what result we shall see in time.

No. 340.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 14, 1876.

WHILE I have been waiting with the utmost anxiety to be informed, if only in general terms, of the conditions upon which Her Majesty's Government considered that it should be endeavoured to negotiate peace, it appears that your Lordship has given the necessary information by a telegram, which, by some accident, I have not yet received.

It was only this morning, upon receiving the telegraphic report made by Sir Andrew Buchanan to your Lordship of his having communicated to Count Andrassy a telegram by which your Lordship had informed me of the views of Her Majesty's Government, that I became aware than an important communication that I was most anxious to have had gone astray.

I had been, during the last few days, greatly embarrassed by my ignorance of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon a subject on which I was in constant communication with the Porte, and respecting which I was anxious lest, while acting to the best of my own judgment, my language might possibly not be exactly in accordance with your Lordship's views.

I trust, however, that this will not prove to have been the case.

With reference to Sir Andrew Buchanan's report of the objection felt by Count Andrassy to the establishment of an autonomy for Bosnia, I can only state that I entirely concur in his opinion that it would be a measure unsuited to that Province.

I have never heard it advocated by a person acquainted with the conditions of the country, who wishes a durable state of things to be established there.

It would, I believe, be the inevitable cause of much future trouble; and, without satisfying any class of the inhabitants, Mussulman or Christian, it would be equally ill-looked upon by both the neighbouring States.

Nothing could be more chimerical than the supposition that Mussulmans and Christians—the latter being divided between the Catholic and Orthodox, and animated by feelings of jealousy and aversion—should live in harmony under an autonomic system.

The Russian Government may wish now to establish this autonomy, but General Ignatiew has repeatedly declared that he regarded it as a proposal that could only be made in ignorance of the conditions of the Province.

If that Government now supports it we may, without any great want of charity, ask whether their advocacy may not be grounded on the knowledge that it will be productive of future trouble.

If, as Count Andrassy anticipates, and as is probable, it would soon necessitate an Austrian intervention, the opportunity will be given for an intervention by Russia, in some other quarter of which she will not be slow to take advantage.

I trust that, therefore, Her Majesty's Government may be able to resist this suggestion of the Russian Government if it should be brought forward.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 341.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 14, 1876.

THE disposition of the new Sultan continues to be much discussed, and I cannot say that the general impression has hitherto been favourable.

I cannot discover any definite grounds for this, except that there are reasons for believing that His Majesty is a man of firm will and strong character, which gives rise to an apprehension that he may prove an arbitrary Sovereign.

On the other hand, the persons immediately attached to him, some of whom I know intimately, give an excellent account both of His Majesty's kindliness of disposition and of his enlightened views.

They declare him to be resolute in his determination to put an end to the abuses under which he admits his subjects to be suffering.

He encourages those who approach him to speak freely and without reserve, and he is doing away with much of the pomp and ceremony of the Court.

His conduct towards the members of his own family forms a marked contrast to the treatment to which he and his brothers were subjected.

Not only his brothers, but the sons of the late Sultan Abdul Aziz are allowed a liberty, and are treated with a consideration hitherto unknown in this Court as regards Princes near to the Throne.

There appears, in fact, much that gives good promise, but I greatly doubt whether it will be found easy to induce His Majesty to accept the restrictions on his own authority, which the reforming party in the country thinks necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 342.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 14, 1876.

THE Memorandum, of which a copy is inclosed, conveys the answer of the Porte to the proposed mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers.

It goes into matter which it would have been desirable to omit, or to have embodied in some separate document, but I imagine that the Turkish Ministers, knowing that the course they have consented to adopt, will expose them to much hostile criticism, felt obliged to be able to show that they had fairly laid before the mediating Powers a statement of their views upon the origin and causes of the present position of things.

The conditions which the Porte considers itself entitled to expect are more extensive than what I had reported to your Lordship as likely to be made.

The reason for this may be taken to be that at first it was intended that the acquiescence in them of the Powers should be asked before the mediation was accepted or negotiations for peace commenced, and the conditions were made such as it was hoped the Powers might accept, with comparatively few exceptions.

Now it has been resolved to accept the mediation without the preliminary acquiescence of the Powers in the conditions, which, being only submitted to their appreciation, have been made more in accordance with the expectations of the public.

The Ministers will show that they have laid what are looked upon as the just rights of the Porte fully before the Powers, upon whom will fall the odium of their rejection, for they do not blind themselves to the certainty that this will be to a large degree their fate.

The really important point in this document is that, as regards the conditions put forward, the Porte in distinct terms "déclare l'en remettre entièrement" to the judgment and equitable appreciation of the Powers.

It is difficult to understand with what object the Memorandum is made to close with

the declaration that orders for the suspension of hostilities would be given within twenty-four hours of the receipt of the decision of the Powers upon the six conditions; for at the very same moment that the Memorandum was put into the hands of the different dragomans the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed them, though, as he declared, confidentially, that orders for the suspension of hostilities would be sent to-night or to-morrow morning.

However contradictory this may seem to the last sentence of the Memorandum, it amounts to an official engagement from which the Porte cannot retreat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 342.

Memorandum.

ABUSANT des faveurs tout exceptionnelles que la sollicitude de la Cour Suzeraine et la bienveillance des Grandes Puissances avaient assurées à la Principauté de Serbie, son administration s'était appliquée à provoquer, à fomenter et à appuyer les mouvements insurrectionnelles dont la Bosnie, l'Herzégovine et la Bulgarie ont été le théâtre dans ces derniers temps. Malgré les protestations pacifiques dont l'Administration Princière se montrait prodigue, des bandes armées, formées en Serbie, envahissaient de tous côtés le territoire Ottoman.

Afin de repousser ces agressions le Gouvernement Ottoman s'est vu dans la nécessité d'établir sur la ligne de démarcation des corps d'armée entiers dont l'entretien a lourdement pesé sur les finances, et malgré les sacrifices que cette situation lui imposait, malgré les provocations incessantes auxquelles il a été en butte, malgré les obstacles insurmontables que cette attitude de la Serbie créait à la pacification des districts insurgés, le Gouvernement Ottoman, dans son désir de se montrer jusqu'au bout fidèle à ses engagements, non seulement évita d'assumer l'initiative des hostilités, mais il s'attacha avec soin à ne fournir à la Serbie aucun prétexte de plainte légitime. Mais le jour vint où désespérant d'épuiser la patience de la Sublime Porte, la Serbie jeta enfin le masque, et, entraînant le Montenégro dans la lutte, déclara ouvertement la guerre, qu'elle n'avait cessé de faire plus ou moins clandestinement depuis plusieurs mois. On vit alors un peuple que l'Empire Ottoman avait comblé d'immunités, de priviléges et de bienfaits de toute nature, poussé par une démagogie sans scrupule, se jeter à corps perdu sur les provinces limitrophes de l'Empire Ottoman pour y porter la destruction et la misère; un prince vassal, subissant l'égarement populaire, forfaire aux lois de l'honneur et de la loyauté; des Ministres qui, repoussant les conseils pressants de l'Europe réunie, n'hésitaient pas à précipiter la Principauté dans l'abîme pour satisfaire des convoitises aussi coupables que chimériques.

Surpris par une si brusque attaque, le Gouvernement Ottoman, qui, loin d'avoir enfermé la Serbie, comme on l'avait dit, dans un cercle de fer, n'avait jusqu'alors entretenu sur la ligne de démarcation que des corps d'observation, et qui puisait sa sécurité dans l'accord des Grandes Puissances et leurs efforts unanimes à Belgrade en faveur de la paix, eut besoin de quelque temps pour mettre en ligne de forces militaires qui devaient châtier la rebellion et faire ressentir aux auteurs de cette provocation les conséquences de leur éclatante ingratitude.

Le sort des armes s'est prononcé en faveur du droit, et les combats sanglants qui se sont succédé sur les rives du Timok et de la Morava depuis quelques semaines, ne laissent aucun doute sur l'issue finale du conflit engagé.

Le Gouvernement Impérial apprécie à leur juste valeur les motifs d'humanité qui ont fait que, dans un moment si critique, la diplomatie Européenne a voulu interposer ses bons offices sur la demande que lui a faite le Gouvernement de Belgrade. Les Gouvernements amis qui ont fait connaître à la Sublime Porte leurs vœux pour une prompte cessation de l'effusion du sang étaient sûrs de rencontrer auprès d'elle le même désir. Aussi, en vue de voir ce désir réalisé un moment plus tôt, le Gouvernement Impérial remplit-il un devoir en déclarant qu'il est convaincu qu'aussi longtemps que les bases mêmes de la reprise des relations amicales n'auront pas été arrêtées, une suspension d'hostilités qui, dans la pratique, rencontreraient infailliblement de sérieuses difficultés et maintiendrait l'incertitude dans les esprits, ne ferait après tout qu'aggraver sans profit aucun la situation des parties et rendrait d'autant plus difficile à atteindre le but que la médiation bienveillante des Puissances amies s'est proposé. Le Gouvernement Impérial a pensé, dès lors, qu'il était préférable sous tous les rapports de décliner tout d'abord une mesure préliminaire qui constituerait par elle-même une difficulté de plus et de formuler

sans perte de temps les conditions auxquelles la paix elle-même pourrait être rétablie, eu égard à la situation nouvelle créée par la Serbie.

En lui accordant la faculté de s'administrer elle-même, en lui abandonnant, en dernier lieu, la garde du pays et le soin d'en assurer la défense, le Gouvernement Impérial avait voulu satisfaire tous ses vœux et s'était fié à la fidélité et à la sagesse de ses populations et des chefs qui la gouvernait. Il avait cru resserrer ainsi par le sentiment du bienfait et non pas relâcher les liens qui attachaient ce pays à l'Empire Ottoman, dont il fait partie intégrante. Cette confiance a été trompée, et les Grandes Puissances amies seront évidemment portées à reconnaître la nécessité de conjurer le retour des maux dont on vient de faire la plus douloureuse épreuve ; la faute grave dont la Serbie s'est rendue coupable vis-à-vis du pouvoir Suzerain, aussi bien que vis-à-vis de l'Europe entière, méritait une répression sévère.

Mais, le Gouvernement Impérial saura élever cette fois-ci encore sa modération au-dessus de ses ressentiments quelque légitimes qu'ils soient. Il ne voudra pas que le peuple Serbe succombe sous le poids de la lourde responsabilité qu'il s'est attirée. Ce qu'il demande, c'est que les relations futures de la Serbie avec le pouvoir Suzerain ne recèlent plus les mêmes dangers que par le passé et que l'expérience qu'on vient de faire ne soit pas perdue.

Pénétrée de cette nécessité, la Sublime Porte a recherché et étudié avec soin les conditions auxquelles la paix pouvait être accordée à la Serbie, et, après un mûr examen, elle s'est arrêtée aux dispositions suivantes :—

1. La personne investie de la dignité de Prince de Serbie devra venir dans la capitale pour rendre hommage à Sa Majesté.

2. Les quatre forteresses dont la garde seulement avait été confiée par le Firman de 1283 au Prince de Serbie, et dont la possession *ab antiquo* était demeurée au Gouvernement Impérial, seront réoccupées par l'armée Impériale comme par le passé ; et sur ce point on se conformera strictement aux dispositions du Protocole du 8 Septembre, 1862.

3. Les milices seront abolies. Le nombre des forces nécessaires pour maintenir l'ordre dans l'intérieur de la Principauté ne dépassera pas 10,000 hommes avec deux batteries d'artillerie.

4. Ainsi qu'il est stipulé dans le Firman de 1249, la Serbie sera tenue de renvoyer dans leurs foyers les habitants des provinces limitrophes qui y émigreraient, et, excepté les forteresses qui existent en Serbie *ab antiquo*, toutes fortifications postérieurement établies devront être complétement démolies.

5. Si la Serbie ne se trouve pas à même d'acquitter l'indemnité dont le montant sera déterminé, le tribut actuel de la Principauté sera augmenté de l'intérêt de la somme représentative de l'indemnité.

6. Le Gouvernement Ottoman aura le droit de faire construire et exploiter par ses agents ou par une Compagnie Ottomane, à son choix, la ligne qui devra relier Belgrade au chemin de fer aboutissant à Nisch.

L'examen attentif des conditions qui viennent d'être énumérées démontrera que le Gouvernement Impérial s'est exclusivement inspiré du désir légitime de faire une œuvre durable que la passion ou l'aveuglement ne puisse pas détruire ou compromettre au lendemain de son établissement.

Il n'y en a aucune qui ne soit impérieusement commandée par les principes de la prudence ou de la justice la plus élémentaire, aucune qui ne corresponde à un besoin vivement senti, aucune enfin qui modifie la situation que les Traités ont créée à la Principauté.

Les restrictions ne portent que sur les concessions que la Sublime Porte avait directement et spontanément accordées à la Principauté ; elles laissent intacte l'œuvre commune de la Sublime Porte et des Puissances, et, dès lors, elles ne portent aucune atteinte aux grands intérêts qui y avaient été contemplés et sauvegardés.

La clause concernant la limitation de la force armée et de l'artillerie Serbe, en même temps qu'elle mettra l'administration en état de maintenir l'ordre intérieur, épargnera au pays des sacrifices onéreux. La Serbie n'ayant à redouter aucun ennemi, l'augmentation de son effectif militaire et de son artillerie ne saurait avoir qu'un but hostile au Gouvernement Impérial.

Quant à la clause relative à la réoccupation des forteresses et que la Sublime Porte recommande tout spécialement à la sollicitude des Puissances, elle ne constitue en elle-même que la revendication d'un droit incontestable ; et la possession des susdites forteresses par les troupes Ottomanes est considérée par l'opinion publique si non comme la seule du moins comme la plus importante et la plus précieuse de toutes les garanties qui pourraient être fournies à la cause de la paix.

Ces considérations se présentent d'elles-mêmes ; et le Gouvernement Impérial a conscience de n'avoir pas outrepassé le but qu'il s'était proposé.

Cependant, désireux d'échapper à tout soupçon d'arrière-pensée et de donner en même temps une preuve manifeste de sa confiance dans l'œuvre médiatrice des Puissances qui ont unanimement déploré l'agression de la Serbie et qui sont pénétrées de la nécessité de la paix, le Gouvernement Impérial, après avoir ainsi exposé ce qui, à ses yeux, ne serait que la conséquence juste et nécessaire de la situation respective dans laquelle les deux parties se sont placées au point de vue du droit, déclare s'en remettre entièrement pour les six conditions énumérées plus haut au jugement éclairé et à l'appréciation équitable des Six Puissances médiatrices ; il leur confie entièrement le soin de peser les raisons qui ont dicté ces six conditions comme moyen de prévenir le retour des calamités actuelles ; et il s'en rapporte à leurs sentiments de haute équité et de haute sagesse.

En ce qui concerne le Monténégro, on s'en tiendra au *statu quo ante*.

Aussitôt que les Puissances médiatrices auront fait connaître à la Sublime Porte leur jugement sur les conditions précitées, elle donnera dans les vingt-quatre heures l'ordre d'arrêter les hostilités ; les relations amicales seront reprises et les deux Principautés profitant ainsi de la modération du Pouvoir Suzerain que toute l'Europe aura constaté, se trouveront replacées dans leur état normal.

Sublime Porte, le 14 *Septembre*, 1876.

(Translation.)

THE Government of Servia, taking advantage of the very exceptional favours which the solicitude of the Suzerain Court and the friendship of the Great Powers had secured for the Principality, has devoted itself to instigating, fomenting, and supporting the insurrectional movements of which Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria have been the scene. In spite of the pacific protestations of which the Administration of the Prince has been so lavish, armed bands, formed in Servia, invaded on all sides the Ottoman territory.

The Ottoman Government, in order to repel these aggressions, found itself compelled to establish upon the frontier several whole corps d'armée, the maintenance of which has been a heavy burden upon the finances; and yet, in spite of the sacrifices which the situation imposed upon it, in spite of the incessant provocations to which it has been exposed, in spite of the insuperable obstacles which this attitude of Servia has placed in the way of the pacification of the insurgent districts, the Ottoman Government, inspired by the wish to show itself throughout faithful to its engagements, not only avoided assuming a hostile initiative, but strove to its utmost to avoid giving Servia any pretexts for legitimate complaint.

But the day came when Servia, in despair of exhausting the patience of the Sublime Porte, at last threw aside the mask, and, dragging Montenegro into the struggle, openly declared war, which practically she had more or less carried on in disguise for several months past. Then we saw a people upon whom the Ottoman Empire had heaped immunities, privileges, and benefits of every kind, throw itself desperately upon the limitrophe provinces of the Ottoman Empire, to spread there misery and ruin ; we saw a Vassal Prince, carried away by the popular folly, oblivious of the laws of honour and of loyalty ; and Ministers who, rejecting the urgent advice of united Europe, did not hesitate to precipitate the Principality into the abyss in order to satisfy a lust for territory, as reprehensible as it was chimerical.

The Ottoman Government was surprised by so sudden an attack, for, far from having inclosed Servia in a circle of iron, as had been asserted, it had up to that time only placed corps of observation upon the frontier, as it thought itself secure, in view of the agreement amongst the Powers, and their unanimous efforts at Belgrade in favour of peace ; it required therefore a little time to bring into line the military forces destined to punish the revolt and bring home to the instigators of this attack the consequences of their signal ingratitude.

The fortune of war has declared itself in favour of justice, and the succession of bloody battles which have taken place during the last few weeks upon the banks of the Timok and the Morava leave the final issue of the struggle no longer in doubt.

The Imperial Government fully appreciates the humanitarian motives which impelled European diplomacy at so critical a moment to interpose its good offices, when appealed to by the Government of Belgrade. The friendly Governments who have communicated to the Sublime Porte their wish to see a speedy cessation of the bloodshed were sure to meet a proper response in this quarter, and therefore, with a view to see this wish

realized as soon as possible, it is the duty of the Imperial Government to declare its conviction that, as long as the bases for the resumption of friendly relations shall not have been settled, a suspension of hostilities, which would certainly encounter most serious difficulties in being carried out, and would keep alive a spirit of uncertainty in people's minds, would only aggravate, without corresponding advantage, the situation of both sides, and would make it more than ever difficult to attain the end which the well-meaning mediation of the friendly Powers has in view. The Imperial Government is therefore of opinion that it is in every respect more advisable to decline at the outset a preliminary measure which would in itself raise an additional difficulty, and rather at once to advance conditions upon which peace may be concluded, taking into consideration the difference in the state of things brought about by Servia.

The Imperial Government, when it granted Servia the right of self-administration, and finally gave up to it the duty of providing for its own defence, had in view the satisfying of all its aspirations, and trusted to the loyalty and wisdom of the population and its rulers. It hoped through the sense of benefits received to strengthen and not to loosen the bonds which unite this country to the Ottoman Empire, of which it forms an integral part. This presumption, however, was mistaken, and the Great Powers, our allies, will naturally be inclined to recognize the necessity of averting the return of evils of which we have just had such painful experience; the serious offence of which Servia has been guilty towards the Suzerain Power, as well as towards the whole of Europe, deserved severe punishment.

But the Imperial Government is ready once more to rise superior to resentments, however legitimate they may be, and to evince moderation. It does not wish that the Servian people should sink under the weight of the heavy responsibility which they have incurred. What it requires is that the future relations of Servia to the Suzerain Power shall be freed from the danger formerly existing, and that the experiences we have gone through shall not be thrown away.

Impressed with this conviction, the Sublime Porte has carefully considered and studied the conditions upon which peace might be granted to Servia, and, after full consideration, has finally determined upon the following terms:—

1. The person invested with the dignity of Prince of Servia shall proceed to the capital to pay homage to His Majesty.

2. The four fortresses, the custody of which only was entrusted by the Firman of 1283 to the Prince of Servia, and the possession of which *ab antiquo* remained with the Imperial Government, shall be re-occupied by the Imperial Army, as was the case formerly; and on this head the dispositions of the Protocol of September 8, 1862, are to be strictly adhered to.

3. The Militia shall be abolished. The number of men necessary for the maintenance of order in the interior of the Principality shall not exceeed 10,000, with two batteries of artillery.

4. As was stipulated in the Firman of 1249, Servia shall be bound to send back home all emigrants from the limitrophe provinces, and, with the exception of the fortresses which exist in Servia *ab antiquo*, all fortifications subsequently erected shall be completely rased.

5. Should Servia not be in a position to pay the indemnity, the amount of which is to be duly settled, the tribute now paid by the Principality shall be increased by the interest of the sum representing the indemnity.

6. The Ottoman Government shall have the right of constructing and of working, either by its agents or by an Ottoman Company, at its option, the line of railroad which is to connect Belgrade with the railway terminus at Nisch.

A careful consideration of the above conditions will lead to the conviction that the Imperial Government is exclusively animated with the wish to establish a work which shall last, and one which neither prejudices nor blind passions shall be able to destroy or endanger on the morrow of its inauguration.

There is not one of these conditions which is not called for by the most elementary principles of prudence and justice, not one which does not meet requirements keenly felt, not one, lastly, which can modify the situation which the Treaties have created for the Principality.

The restrictions affect only those concessions which the Sublime Porte had spontaneously and directly granted to the Principality; they do not touch the common work of the Sublime Porte and the Powers, and hence they in nowise compromise the great interests, for the protection of which that work was designed.

The clause relating to the armed force and the Servian artillery, while it will enable the administration to preserve order in the interior, will save the country from onerous

sacrifices. Servia having no enemy to fear, the increase of her military forces and of her artillery can only have an hostile purpose as regards the Imperial Government.

As regards the clause relating to the re-occupation of the fortresses, to which clause the Sublime Porte more especially calls the attention of the Powers, this is only the reassertion of an incontestable right; and the possession of the said fortresses by the Ottoman troops is looked upon by public opinion, if not as the sole guarantee, at least as one of the most important and valuable which could be furnished in the interests of peace.

These considerations naturally present themselves, and the Imperial Government is conscious of not having gone beyond the object it proposed to itself.

Nevertheless, anxious to avoid all suspicion of concealed designs, and to give at the same time an evident proof of its faith in the work of mediation of the Powers, who were unanimous in deprecating Servia's aggression, and are convinced of the necessity for peace, the Imperial Government, having thus explained what in its opinion is the just and necessary consequence of the respective position taken up by the two parties in the legal point of view, declares that it leaves and refers the six conditions enumerated above entirely to the enlightened judgment and equitable appreciation of the six Mediating Powers; it entrusts to them the care of pondering the reasons which have dictated the six conditions as a means of preventing the return of similar misfortunes, and relies upon their feelings of exalted equity and wisdom.

As regards Montenegro, the *statu quo ante* will be adhered to.

As soon as the Mediating Powers shall have communicated to the Sublime Porte their opinion upon the aforesaid conditions, orders will be given within twenty-four hours for the suspension of hostilities, friendly relations will be resumed, and the two Principalities, benefiting by the moderation of the Suzerain Power, of which Europe will have been witness, will be restored to their normal condition.

Sublime Porte, September 14, 1876.

No. 343.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September* 22.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 14 *Septembre,* 1876.

JE vous transmets, ci-joint, le texte en langue Turque, et la traduction en langue Française, du Hatt Impérial qui a été lu solennellement Dimanche dernier à la Sublime Porte.

Je signale à toute votre attention ce Rescrit Impérial, qui exprime la volonté de notre auguste Souverain.

Sa Majesté place en première ligne parmi les devoirs du Gouvernement Impérial, l'exécution rigoureuse des lois et la bonne administration de la justice, le contrôle des finances, la propagation de l'instruction publique, le développement de l'agriculture et de l'industrie, et enfin les réformes administratives qui sont le point de départ et la base de tout progrès et de toute civilisation.

Notre auguste Maître recommande à ses Ministres l'adoption de toutes les mesures indiquées par les exigences de notre temps, et prescrit à cet effet l'institution d'un Conseil Général inspirant toute confiance à la nation, et dont les principales attributions consisteront à préparer et à élaborer les Lois de l'Empire, et à veiller au budget des recettes et dépenses du pays.

La volonté de Sa Majesté établit la responsabilité des Ministres et des fonctionnaires de l'Etat, qui, avec la stabilité qui leur sera désormais assurée, constituera la meilleure garantie d'une bonne administration.

En déplorant les maux de la guerre civile actuelle, Sa Majesté engage le Ministère à rechercher les moyens propres à faire cesser ce fléau et à ramener la paix dans ses Etats. Enfin, elle recommande d'une manière toute particulière le respect des Traités internationaux et le maintien des bons rapports existant entre l'Empire Ottoman et les Puissances amies.

En vous pénétrant des principes de haute sagesse et des sentiments paternels dont le Hatt Impérial est l'éclatante expression, vous voudrez bien, M. l'Ambassadeur, donner à cet acte souverain toute la publicité possible dans le pays où vous êtes accrédité.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, September* 14, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith the text in Turkish, and a translation in French, of the Imperial Hatt, which was solemnly read last Sunday at the Sublime Porte.

I draw your especial attention to this Imperial rescript, which expresses the will of our august Sovereign.

His Majesty gives the first rank amongst the duties of the Imperial Government to the rigorous execution of the laws and the proper administration of justice, to the control of the finances, the extension of public education, the development of agriculture and manufactures, and, lastly, to the administrative reforms which are the starting-point and foundation of all progress and all civilization.

Our august Master enjoins upon his Ministers the adoption of every measure called for by the exigencies of the present moment, and with this view directs the formation of a General Council worthy of the confidence of the nation, and whose chief duty will consist in preparing and carrying into effect the laws of the Empire, and in controlling the Budget of the receipts and expenditure of the country.

The will of His Majesty establishes the responsibility of the Ministers and of the functionaries of the State, and this, together with the continuance in office which will henceforth be assured to them, will form the best guarantee for a sound Administration.

While deploring the miseries caused by the present civil war, His Majesty invites His Ministry to seek every means of putting a stop to this scourge, and of restoring peace to his States. Finally, His Majesty most especially enjoins respect for international Treaties, and the maintenance of the good relations which exist between the Ottoman Empire and the friendly Powers.

You will constantly bear in mind the principles of exalted wisdom and the paternal sentiments of which the Imperial Hatt is the striking expression, and you will, M. l'Ambassadeur, give every publicity to this sovereign act in the country where you are accredited.

I request, &c.
(Signed) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 343.

Imperial Hatt, dated 23 *Chaban,* 1293 (*September* 10, 1876).

[See Inclosure in No. 335.]

No. 344.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September* 22.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 14 *Septembre,* 1876.

POUR faire suite à mes télégrammes du 5 et du 14 de ce mois, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint en copie, la pièce identique qui m'a été remise par Messieurs les Représentants des Puissances Garantes à Constantinople pour proposer, sur la demande des Princes de Serbie et de Monténégro, une suspension d'hostilités, ainsi que le Mémoire que j'ai adressé à leurs Excellences en réponse à cette proposition.

Les considérations exposées dans ce Mémoire font ressortir surabondamment les inconvénients d'une suspension d'hostilités, ainsi que la modération et la légitimité des conditions de la paix que la Sublime Porte soumet à l'appréciation équitable et au jugement éclairé des Six Grandes Puissances.

La conduite des Serbes à notre égard nous a coûte des sacrifices immenses, et les résultats que nous obtenons, grâce à la bravoure de nos soldats, nous donnaient le droit incontestable d'imposer toutes les conditions qui nous auraient semblé nécessaires.

Toutefois, la Sublime Porte, guidée par les sentiments paternels de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, s'est contentée de quelques modestes demandes suggérées par les exigences morales, les exigences de la sécurité de nos Provinces Albano-Slaves et par la nécessité de chercher à empêcher le retour de ces événements sanglants.

Aussitôt que les Puissances Médiatrices auront fait connaître à la Sublime Porte leur

jugement sur les conditions, contenues dans le Mémoire précité, elle donnera dans les vingt-quatre heures l'ordre d'arrêter les hostilités, et les relations amicales seront reprises avec la Serbie et le Monténégro.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, September* 14, 1876.

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 5th and 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copies of the identic communication made to me by the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers at Constantinople proposing, at the request of the Princes of Servia and Montenegro, a suspension of hostilities, and of the Memorandum which I have addressed to their Excellencies in reply to this proposal.

The considerations developed in this Memorandum more than sufficiently prove the inconveniences of a suspension of hostilities, as well as the moderation and legitimate nature of the conditions of peace which the Sublime Porte submits to the equitable appreciation and enlightened judgment of the six Great Powers. The conduct of the Servians towards us has imposed upon us enormous sacrifices, and the results which, thanks to the bravery of our soldiers, we have obtained, have given us the incontestable right of imposing any conditions that may appear to us necessary.

Nevertheless, the Sublime Porte, inspired by the paternal sentiments of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, has confined itself to a few modest demands, which are suggested by moral requirements, by exigencies attendant on the security of our Albano-Slavonic Provinces, and by the necessity of endeavouring to prevent the recurrence of events attended with so much bloodshed.

As soon as the Mediating Powers shall have communicated to the Sublime Porte their opinion upon the conditions laid down in the aforesaid Memorandum, orders will be given within twenty-four hours to suspend hostilities, and friendly relations will be resumed with Servia and Montenegro.

I request, &c.
(Signed) SAFVET.

No. 345.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September* 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 20 *Septembre,* 1876.

NOUS apprenons que, dans l'échange de vues qui s'établit entre les Puissances, il est question de formuler certaines propositions relativement aux Provinces de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine. Nous ne savons pas au juste en quoi consistent ces propositions, ni la forme qui leur sera donnée; mais des informations dignes de foi portent que le Gouvernement Anglais appuie cette idée, qui, d'un autre côté, rencontre une vive opposition de la part du Cabinet de Vienne. Votre Excellence saisira aisément, sans que j'aie besoin d'y insister, la gravité de cette information, si elle venait à se vérifier, et combien nous serions douloureusement affectés de voir de pareilles idées patronnées par le Gouvernement Anglais.

Le Gouvernement Impérial s'est montré toujours prêt à accepter les bons offices des Puissances dans les questions qui touchent au droit international, et il a toujours fait preuve de la plus grande déférence, notamment pour les conseils du Gouvernement Anglais. Mais, malgré les sentiments de modération dont il est animée, il ne saurait fermer les yeux sur les grands inconvénients que présenterait la discussion de questions de pure administration intérieure, si elle était portée sur le terrain diplomatique. Il négligerait un devoir impérieux s'il ne se hâtait de déclarer qu'il verrait une atteinte portée à ses droits de souveraineté et d'indépendance dans toute démarche des Puissances qui aurait pour effet de s'interposer entre les populations de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine et leur autorité légitime. Il est vrai que ces deux provinces ont été agitées par des mouvements insurrectionnels; mais l'origine de ces mouvements est connue; et, aussitôt que la lutte provoquée par la Servie et le Monténégro aura pris fin, le Gouvernement Impérial, se conformant aux intentions libérales du Souverain, telles qu'elles ont été formulées dans le Hatt Impérial, est décidé, à la condition d'être libre dans son action, d'adopter des mesures promptes et efficaces qui auront pour résultat certain la pacifica-

tion de ces Provinces, l'apaisement des passions, et la réalisation de grands progrès matériels.

Un régime exceptionnel pour les Provinces insurgées serait une prime d'encouragement pour de nouveaux désordres, et troublerait profondément l'économie générale de l'Empire. Nous ne pouvons réellement pas croire que les Puissances insisteront sur une idée aussi exorbitante, au moment même où le Gouvernement Impérial s'occupe de fonder une grande institution au sein de laquelle les intérêts de toutes les Provinces seront représentés, toutes les plaintes pourront se faire entendre, et tous les droits trouveront une protection efficace. En ce qui concerne cet état de choses, une intervention étrangère créerait des difficultés et des complications inextricables. Ces vérités n'échapperont pas à la perspicacité des hommes d'Etat Anglais.

Vous voudrez bien, par conséquent, vous informer auprès de son Excellence Lord Derby de ce qu'il y a de fondé dans les informations qui nous parviennent à ce sujet; et, dans le cas où, contrairement à notre attente, vous aurez constaté chez le Cabinet Britannique les dispositions qu'on lui attribue, vous aurez soin de m'en prévenir aussitôt, tout en vous employant à combattre de toutes vos forces un pareil projet, que nous sommes unanimes à considérer comme contraire, sous tous les rapports, aux intérêts de l'Empire.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 20, 1876.

WE learn that in the exchange of views going on between the Powers the question has been raised of formulating certain proposals relative to the provinces of Bosnia and the Herzegovina. We do not exactly know the nature of these proposals, nor the form which it is proposed to give to them; but trustworthy information leads to the belief that the English Government supports this idea, which, on the other hand, is strongly opposed by the Vienna Cabinet. Your Excellency will, without its being necessary for me to dwell thereon, readily understand the serious nature of this information should it prove true, and how grieved we should be to see such ideas advocated by the Government of England.

The Imperial Government has always shown itself ready to accept the good offices of the Powers in questions relating to international rights, and has given proofs of the greatest deference, more especially for the advice of the English Government. But in spite of the feelings of moderation with which it is animated, it could not remain blind to the great inconveniences which would arise from the discussion of questions which relate to purely internal administration if such discussion be placed upon a diplomatic footing. It would be oblivious of its imperative duty if it did not hasten to declare that it would view as an attack upon its rights of sovereignty and independence every step of the Powers tending to intervene between the people of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and the legitimate authority of the Government. It is true that those two provinces have been disturbed by insurrectional movements, but the origin of those movements is well known; and whenever the contest provoked by Servia and Montenegro shall be terminated, the Imperial Government, in conformity with the liberal intentions of the Sovereign, as formulated in the Imperial Hatt, is determined, provided it is left free to act, to adopt prompt and efficacious measures which will most certainly result in the pacification of those provinces, in the calming of ill feelings, and in the realisation of great material progress.

An exceptional form of Government for the insurgent provinces would act as an incentive to fresh disturbances, and would thoroughly disturb the general economy of the Empire. We cannot believe that the Powers will insist upon so preposterous an idea at the very time when the Imperial Government is engaged in creating a great institution, in whose midst the interests of all the provinces will be represented, where all complaints will obtain a hearing, and where all rights will find efficacious protection. In view of this state of things, foreign intervention would create insurmountable difficulties and complications. These truths will not escape the perspicuity of English Statesmen.

You will, therefore, inquire of his Excellency Lord Derby how far the information which has reached us on this subject is true; and if, contrary to our expectations, you should establish the truth of the intentions thus attributed to the English Cabinet, you will be careful to inform me thereof forthwith, and in the meantime you will oppose to your utmost such a project, which we are unanimous in considering as antagonistic in all respects to the interests of the Empire.

No. 346.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 21 Septembre, 1876.*

DANS certains cercles politiques en Europe on a fait répandre le bruit qu'il y aurait eu tout récemment de la part de l'armée Impériale une infraction à la suspension d'hostilités.

Vous êtes autorisé à démentir formellement cette nouvelle, qui ne répose sur aucun fondement.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 21, 1876.*

A RUMOUR to the effect that the Imperial army has quite recently been guilty of a breach of the suspension of hostilities is being circulated in certain European political circles.

You are authorized to contradict this news officially, for it is entirely without foundation.

No. 347.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 9, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship various documents handed to me by the Servian Government on the subject of Turkish excesses alleged to have been committed since the present war has commenced.

These acts are said to have occurred at places at considerable distance from Belgrade, and I have no means whatever to ascertain the truth of the various allegations contained in them, at least, not as long as the war continues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 347.

M. Ristitch to Consul-General White.

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, le 6 Septembre, 1876.*

J'AI eu l'honneur à la date du $\frac{29 \text{ Juillet}}{9 \text{ Août}}$ dernier d'appeler votre attention sur les actes de cruauté et de barbarie commis en Serbie par les troupes Turques depuis l'ouverture des hostilités. Il paraît qu'à la suite des observations que plusieurs Puissances ont faites à cet égard à la Sublime Porte, le Gouvernement Turc a promis de donner à ses agents les instructions nécessaires pour empêcher le renouvellement de ces actes odieux. J'ai néanmoins le regret de constater, M. l'Agent, que les instructions de la Sublime Porte ont été méconnues ou incomprises. Les informations les plus récentes parvenues au Gouvernement Princier me permettent en effet d'affirmer qu'en dépit des assurances solennelles données par la Sublime Porte les troupes Turques continuent dans leur campagne contre la Serbie à appliquer le monstrueux système de guerre que je me suis trouvé dans l'obligation de vous dénoncer une première fois.

Le Gouvernement Princier sera bientôt en mesure d'exposer en détail le récit douloureux de tous les actes de destruction et de cruauté dont les Turcs se sont rendus coupables durant l'occupation du Département de Kniajevatz. En attendant, M. l'Agent, je crois devoir vous signaler la conduite odieuse qu'ils tiennent à notre frontière de l'est. Voici ce qui se passe dans les environs de Saitschar depuis que nos troupes ont évacué cette région où il règne maintenant un calme relatif.

Le pays est systématiquement ravagé, les champs sont dévastés, les propriétés détruites, des villages entiers sont livrés aux flammes et, ce qui prouve bien que les autorités Turcs civiles et militaires sont sciemment complices de ces actes de vandalisme, ce que les incendies sont régulièrement allumés tous les soirs, comme si l'on voulait répandre au loin la terreur par la vue de ces sinistres exécutions.

Quoiqu'on dise, les fonctionnaires Turcs ne sauraient décliner la responsabilité terrible que ces faits accomplis sous leurs yeux laissent peser sur eux.

Du côté d'Alexinatz le spectacle est plus triste et plus odieux encore s'il est possible. Il y a quinze jours environ que les Turcs opèrent dans ce département, un des plus riches et des plus fertiles de la Principauté. Ils n'en occupent qu'un espace restreint et néanmoins ils ont brûlé déjà quarante-huit villages dont vous trouverez les noms dans la dépêche ci-jointe du Préfet d'Alexinatz.

Toute la contrée où ils ont passé est dévastée, ruinée, tout est détruit, ravagé, brûlé.

Loin de servir de protection contre la furreur de destruction qui semble les animer, le drapeau de la Croix Rouge excite particulièrement leur colère, et quoiqu'ils aient promis d'exécuter loyalement la Convention de Genève, ils ne respectent ni les ambulances ni le personnel qui en dépend.

Dans la journée de $\frac{9}{21}$ Août devant Alexinatz ils ont tiré sur une ambulance jusqu'à ce qu'ils aient vu disparaître le drapeau à la Croix Rouge.

Plus récemment encore dans la journée du $\frac{22\text{ Août}}{3\text{ Septembre}}$, des cavaliers Turcs ayant rencontré dans l'exercice de ses fonctions M. Souka Popovitch, Secrétaire du Comité de la Croix Rouge d'Alexinatz, se sont rués sur lui. Ils lui ont d'abord coupé le bras qui portait le brassard, puis ils ont découpé la croix elle-même sur le bras de ce malheureux qui a expiré au milieu des souffrances les plus horribles. Vous trouverez le récit de cette épouvantable scène dans la dépêche du chef du service sanitaire, M. le Dr. Georgévitch, dépêche dont j'ai également l'honneur de vous envoyer copie.

Toutes ces atrocités m'autorisent, M. l'Agent, à vous répéter, ce que je vous disais dans ma lettre du 9 Août, que l'armée Turque ne fait pas la guerre telle que l'entendent les peuples civilisés. C'est une œuvre d'extermination et de ruine qu'elle accomplit en Serbie depuis qu'elle y est entrée.

Elle ne peut invoquer aucune excuse, car les rapports de nos officiers sont unanimes à constater que les incendies allumés par les Turcs au sud, comme à l'est, comme partout, incendies allumés pour la plupart après la lutte, ne se justifient par aucune nécessité stratégique. Ce n'est point la vue des conséquences désolantes mais inévitables de la guerre, c'est l'application persistante et inexorable d'un système préconçu.

Je sais, M. l'Agent, que le Gouvernement que vous représentez auprès de Son Altesse le Prince Milan est de ceux qui portent le plus vif intérêt à cette question qui touche à l'humanité beaucoup plus qu'à la politique. C'est pour ce motif que j'ai cru devoir m'adresser de nouveau à vous pour vous prier de vouloir bien mettre sous les yeux de qui de droit les faits si graves que je viens d'avoir l'honneur de vous exposer.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) J. RISTITCH.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Belgrade, September* 6, 1876.

I HAD the honour on the $\frac{29\text{th July}}{9\text{th August}}$ last, to call your attention to the acts of cruelty and barbarity committed by the Turkish troops in Servia since the commencement of hostilities. It appears that, in consequence of the observations which several of the Powers have made to the Sublime Porte on this subject, the Turkish Government has promised to give its agents the necessary instructions to prevent the renewal of these horrible deeds. Nevertheless, Sir, I regret to be obliged to state that the instructions of the Sublime Porte have been either disregarded or imperfectly understood. In fact the most recent intelligence which has reached the Prince's Government, enables me to state that in spite of the solemn assurances given by the Sublime Porte, the Turkish troops continue to act in their campaign against Servia on the monstrous system which I have already found myself obliged to denounce to you.

The Prince's Government will soon be in a position to set forth in detail the painful account of all the deeds of devastation and cruelty of which the Turks have been guilty during their occupation of the Province of Kniagévatz. Meanwhile, Sir, I think it my duty to point out to you their horrible conduct on our eastern frontier. The following is the state of things in the neighbourhood of Saitschar since our troops evacuated that district, where at present there reigns comparative quiet.

The country has been systematically ravaged, the fields are laid waste, property destroyed, whole villages delivered to the flames, and the incendiary fires are regularly lighted every night, which conclusively proves that the civil and military Turkish authorities are knowingly accessory to these acts of vandalism, as though it were wished to spread terror far and wide by the sight of these dreadful deeds. Whatever may be said, the Turkish officials cannot repudiate the terrible responsibility which these acts, done under their eyes, lays at their door.

On the side of Alexinatz, the state of affairs is, if possible, still sadder and more horrible. For about a fortnight the Turks have been operating in this Department, one of the richest and most fertile in the Principality. They only occupy a limited

portion of it, nevertheless they have already burnt forty-eight villages, whose names will be found in the annexed dispatch from the Prefect of Alexinatz. The whole of the country through which they have passed is devastated and ruined, everything is destroyed, laid waste and burnt.

The Red Cross flag, far from serving as a protection against the rage of destruction which seems to animate them, especially excites their anger, and though they have promised to execute loyally the Geneva Convention, they respect neither the ambulances nor their staff.

During the battle of the $\frac{9\text{th}}{21\text{st}}$ August, before Alexinatz, they fired on an ambulance until they saw the Red Cross flag disappear.

Still more recently, during the battle of the $\frac{22\text{nd August}}{3\text{rd September}}$ some Turkish horsemen having met M. Souka Popovitch, Secretary of the Red Cross Committee of Alexinatz, in the exercise of his duty, rushed upon him. First they cut off the arm which bore the badge, then they cut the cross itself from this unhappy man's arm, who expired in the most horrible torments. You will find below the account of this shocking scene in the despatch of the Chief of the Hospital Service, Dr. Georgewitch, a despatch of which also I have the honour to transmit a copy.

All these atrocities, M. l'Agent, authorise me to repeat to you what I told you in my letter of the 9th of August, that the Turkish army does not wage war in the manner of civilized nations. It is a work of extermination and ruin which it has been carrying out in Servia since it has entered it.

No excuse can be put forward, for the reports of our officers are unanimous in stating that the incendiary fires lighted by the Turks in the south as in the east, and everywhere else, were lighted for the most part after the battle, and cannot be justified by any strategic necessity. This is not a sketch of the desolating but inevitable consequences of war, it is the persistent and inexorable application of a preconceived system.

I am aware, M. l'Agent, that the Government which you represent at the Court of His Highness, Prince Milan, is one of those which takes the liveliest interest in this question, which is connected far more with humanity than with politics. For this reason I have thought it my duty to address myself once more to you, and to ask you to be so good as to bring to the knowledge of the proper persons the important facts which I have just had the honour to detail to you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. RISTITCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 347.

Colonel Protitch to M. Nikolitch.

M. le Ministre, *Alexinatz, le* 30 *Juillet,* 1876.

HIER, 29 Juillet, les Turcs ont commis en plein jour des actes de barbarie dignes du moyen âge.

A la liste des villages détruits par les Turcs il faut en ajouter douze qui avaient été occupés par nos troupes et qui ont été les victimes du brigandage Musulman. Les villages de Tzerié, Paillina, Bertchintzi, Tonava, le haut et le bas, Topanitza, le haut et le bas, Milkootzi, et la Monastère de la Sainte Vierge, Belié Polié, Kravitch, Drajevtzi, et Mezgraia n'existent plus. Tous ont été réduits en cendres. Des habitants une partie a échappé par la fuite, les autres ont été massacrés.

Tout cela a été exécuté par l'armée régulière Turque assistée dans son œuvre par des Bachi-Bozouks et à l'aide de la ruse la plus lâche.

Tandis qu'à l'aile gauche les Bachi-Bozouks procédaient au massacre et à l'incendie sous la protection de Nizams, d'autres corps de Nizams traversaient les autres villages et arrivaient à proximité de nos avant-postes, rassurant sur leur passage les paysans et les engageant à se livrer paisiblement à leurs travaux. Puis ils commencèrent à mettre le feu aux villages les plus proches de nos lignes et à massacrer la population. Ensuite ils firent successivement éprouver le même sort aux autres villages dont ils avaient rassuré les habitants à leur passage. A Tzerié ils ont tout mis à mort et n'ont épargné que deux jeunes filles qu'ils ont emmenées en esclavage.

Nulle part ils n'ont réussi à passer la frontière les nôtres les ayant accueillis par un feu très nourri. De notre côté, nous avons eu quelques blessés et cinq morts dont les Turcs ont réussi à s'emparer et qu'ils ont mutilés et coupés en morceaux.

(Signé) C. PROTITCH.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre, *Alexinatz, July* 30, 1876.

YESTERDAY, July the 29th, the Turks committed in open day, acts of barbarity worthy of the middle ages.

To the list of villages destroyed by the Turks must be added twelve which had been occupied by our troops, and which have fallen victims to Mussulman brigandage. The villages of Tzerié, Paillina, Bertchintzi, Upper and Lower Tonava, Upper and Lower Topanitza, Milkootzi, and the Monastery of the Holy Virgin, Belié Polié, Kravitch, Drajevtzi, and Mezgraia no longer exist. They have all been reduced to ashes. Of the inhabitants, a part escaped by flight, the rest have been massacred.

The whole of this was perpetrated by the regular Turkish army, assisted in its work by Bashi-Bazouks, and by the use of the most cowardly treachery.

While the left wing of the Bashi-Bazouks proceeded to massacre and burn, protected by Nizams, further bodies of Nizams marched through the other villages and came to the neighbourhood of our advanced posts, reassuring the peasants as they went and encouraging them to engage peaceably in their ordinary occupations. Then they began to set fire to the villages nearest to our lines and to massacre the inhabitants. Afterwards they successively treated in the same way the other villages, whose inhabitants they had reassured on their march through them. At Tzerié they put everyone to death, only sparing two young girls, whom they carried off into slavery.

Nowhere did they succeed in crossing the frontier, as our men received them with a well-supported fire. On our side, we only had a few wounded and five killed, whom the Turks succeeded in carrying off, and whom they mutilated and cut in pieces.

(Signed) C. PROTITCH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 347.

Declaration made by Seven Inhabitants of Bulgaria before the Prefect of Yagodina, on the Atrocities committed by the Turks in Bulgaria.

NOUS sommes passés en Serbie il y a cinq jours, les uns avec familles, les autres seuls, pour nous soustraire aux barbaries et aux cruautés Turques. Il serait trop long d'énumérer tous les méfaits et toutes les sauvageries commis par les Turcs, et qui nous ont forcé d'abandonner nos foyers, nos champs, et nos familles; en un mot, tout ce qui nous rappelle les plus chers souvenirs. La mer se transformerait en encre, la terre entière en papier, et les forêts en plumes, que cela ne suffirait pas encore pour décrire les souffrances que nous font endurer les Turcs, à la honte de l'Europe civilisée. Non contents de nous avoir tenus enchaînés pendant cinq siècles sous leur hidieux despotisme, de nous avoir depouillés à plaisir du peu de bien que nous avions acquis à la sueur de notre front, les Turcs s'en prennent aujourd'hui à tout ce qu'il y a de plus sacré et de plus cher à l'homme.

Il serait peut-être superflu de détailler les cruautés que l'enfer même envierait aux Turcs; il serait superflu, disons nous, parceque c'est un secret déjà dévoilé; et que l'Europe entière connaît déjà tous ce qui a été dit et écrit sur les crimes horribles commis sur les Chrétiens de Turquie. Il le serait superflu encore parceque dans les parlements, assemblées, églises, livres, et journaux, la noire image des souffrances des Chrétiens de Turquie a été parfaitement décrite. Ses âmes charitables se servant du pinceau pour exprimer les sentiments de pitié et de miséricorde que leur inspirent nos malheurs, et voulant les faire partager par le reste de l'Europe civilisée, ont fait de toutes les atrocités Turques des tableaux merveilleux vendus à des prix énormes. Et malgré cela, la description de nos souffrances est restée pour la plus grande partie de l'Europe un conte sans intérêt. Les assassinats, les incendies, les vols, le massacre de femmes et des enfants, étaient des faits journaliers qui se commettaient sous nos yeux dans l'intérieur de nos foyers, au sein de nos familles. Et nous supportions tout, parceque c'était l'héritage de nos pères. Nous souffrions avec résignation, et nous sommes restés les sujets fidèles de notre Empereur et Sultan; pas un geste, pas un mouvement qui put trahir en nous un ombre même de désobéissance.

Les souffrances nous ont endurcis. Nous nous étions déjà faits à nos malheurs; mais voilà que depuis deux ou trois mois les Turcs ont recommencé de plus belle leur métier d'assassins. Après nous avoir dépouillés de tout, privés de tout, leur main sanglante s'en prend aujourd'hui à l'intérieur même de nos familles, on nous force à assister au déshonneur de nos filles, qu'on viole sous nos yeux, et qui tombent victimes des viles passions des Turcs; nos enfants sont emmenés en esclavage, et forcés d'embrasser

l'Islamisme; ceux qui s'y opposent sont tués sans pitié; nos femmes sont éventrées, et les enfants arrachés par le sabre à leurs entrailles; nos maisons incendiées, le bétail emmené, les églises profanées et détruites.

Plusieurs villages dans la Pachalik de Widin, et une centaine des villages dans les environs de Pirot, ont été réduits en cendres; leurs ruines sont là pour prouver les actes de sauvagerie et de cruauté commis, non seulement par les hordes sauvages des Tcherkesses, des Bashi-Bazouks, et des rédifs, mais bien par l'armée Impériale même; les fonctionnaires civils et militaires soutiennent l'ardeur des fanatiques, et les encouragent à dévaster et détruire à qui mieux les habitations Chrétiennes et à frapper le plus cruellement possible les pauvres rayahs.

Ainsi les églises de Borovats et de Protopopinatz ont été détruites il y a vingt jours; le monastère de Tchiporov a été incendié et le Supérieur Makarié assassiné en prison; les familles de Tzona et de Pécha de Protopopinatz emmenées en esclavage; Vouko de Braukovatz a été tué; plus de 700 têtes de moutons ont été volés à Reltjau; soixante chevaux pris de force à Protopopinatz; les auberges de plusieurs villages détruits et les boissons répandues; la boutique du soussigné Zioko a été pillée, les marchandises, représentant une valeur de 1,200 piastres, emportées, et lui-même menacé de mort, a dû se sauver en Serbie, laissant sa famille dans la plus grande misère, et à la merci des Turcs. Les autres soussignés ont subi le même sort; dans le village de Stanjevatz les Nizams, Tcherkesses, et autres voulaient forcer six jeunes filles à embrasser la religion Mahométanne, sur leur refus elles ont été toutes massacrées. Douze filles en bas âge ont été emmenées en esclavage.

Dans le village de Paieche tous les hommes, à l'exception de six, qui se sont réfugiés en Serbie, ont été massacrés, les jeunes femmes et les filles emmenées, et les vieilles assassinées; les enfants du même village ont été coupés en deux, et les femmes enceintes éventrées.

Voilà les crimes que les Turcs commettent journellement; nous ne pouvions plus les supporter, et nous comparaisons aujourd'hui devant l'autorité Serbe, demandant asile jusqu'au jour où les barbaries Turques cesseront.

(Signé) GJIRA GEORGEVITCH.
VASSALIE LILOW.
DIMITRI GEORGEVITCH.
ATHANASIE OJELANOVITCH.
NEDELKO ZIOKOVITCH.
ZIORKO NESCHKOVITCH.
SPASSA KRSTOVITCH.

Fait devant moi, Préfet de Yagodina.
(Signé) SARITCH.

Après la signature du Protocole ci-dessus, les comparants ont ajouté ce qui suit:—

En 1861 déjà nous nous sommes plaints aux représentants des Puissances Etrangères à Belgrade des atrocités commises par les Turcs, en les priant de bien vouloir intervenir auprès de leurs Gouvernements pour soulager le sort des malheureuses populations Chrétiennes. Notre voix n'a pas été écoutée. La Turquie promettait bien d'améliorer notre sort, et de nous assurer les droits et libertés dont jouissent tous les hommes; mais tout cela est resté à l'état de promesses, et plus nous élevions la voix pour demander justice, plus nous étions exposés à la vengeance des Turcs.

Nous avons perdus l'espoir de voir réaliser les promesses faites par les Turcs; la coupe de nos souffrances a débordé; nous avons été forcés de fuire et de chercher asile dans la Principauté. Nous ne retournerons plus en Turquie; les promesses qu'on nous ferait dorénavant seraient sans valeur, vu l'impossibilité dans laquelle nous nous trouvons de croire à leur réalisation.

Belgrade, le 2 Août, 1876.

(Translation.)

WE crossed into Servia five days since, some with their families, others singly, to escape from the Turkish barbarities and cruelties. It would be too long to enumerate all the misdeeds and all the acts of savagery committed by the Turks, and which have forced us to abandon our homes, our lands, and our families; in one word, all that recalls to us our dearest remembrances. If the sea were turned into ink, the earth into paper, and the forests into pens, all would not suffice to describe the sufferings which the Turks have made us endure, to the shame of civilized Europe.

Not content with having kept us in chains for five centuries under their horrid

despotism, with dispoiling us at their pleasure of the little property we had acquired with the sweat of our brows, the Turks now attack all that man holds most sacred and most dear.

It would perhaps be superfluous to give in detail the cruelties by which the Turks rival hell itself; it would be superfluous, we say, because it is a mystery which has already been disclosed; and because all Europe already knows everything that has been said and written about the horrible crimes committed on the Christians in Turkey. It would also be superfluous because in Parliaments, Assemblies, Churches, books, and newspapers, the gloomy picture of the sufferings of the Christians in Turkey has been completely drawn. These charitable persons who have used the brush to express the feelings of pity and sympathy with which our misfortunes inspire them, and which they wish the rest of civilized Europe to share, have made of all the Turkish atrocities marvellous pictures sold at vast prices. But, nevertheless, the account of our sufferings has remained, for the greater part of Europe, a story without interest. The assassinations, the fires, the robberies, the slaughter of women and children, were daily occurrences, taking place under our eyes in the interior of our homes, and in the bosom of our families. And we bore it all, for it was the inheritance left us by our fathers. We suffered with resignation, and remained the faithful subjects of our Emperor and Sultan; not a gesture, not a movement, which could betray in us even the shadow of disobedience.

Our sufferings have hardened us. We had become quite accustomed to our misfortunes; but now for two or three months past the Turks have begun again their trade of murder in their most approved fashion. After having despoiled and deprived us of everything, their blood-stained hands now attack even the interior of our families; we are forced to be present at the dishonour of our daughters, who are ravished under our eyes, and who fall victims to the vile passions of the Turks; our children are carried off into slavery, and forced to embrace the Mahomedan religion; those who resist are mercilessly slaughtered; our wives are ripped up, and the children cut out of their bodies with the sword; our houses are set on fire, our cattle carried off, our churches desecrated and destroyed.

Several villages in the Pashalik of Widin, and a hundred villages in the neighbourhood of Pirot have been reduced to ashes; their ruins are there to prove the acts of savagery and cruelty that have been committed, not only by the savage hordes of Tcherkesses, Bashi-Bazouks, and Redifs, but by the Imperial army itself; the civil and military officials fan the zeal of the fanatics and encourage them to rival each other in laying waste and destroying the dwellings of the Christians and in attacking the poor Rayahs in the most cruel way.

Thus the churches of Borovatz and of Protopopinatz were destroyed three weeks since; the Monastery of Tchiporov has been burnt down and the Superior Makarie murdered when in prison; the families of Tzona and Pecha of Protopopinatz carried off into slavery; Vouko of Brankovatz has been killed; more than 700 head of sheep have been stolen at Reltjan; sixty horses have been forcibly carried off at Protopopinatz; the inns of several villages destroyed and the liquor thrown away; the shop of the undersigned Zioko has been pillaged, goods carried off to the value of 1,200 piastres, and he himself, being threatened with death, was forced to escape into Servia, leaving his family in the greatest distress, and at the mercy of the Turks.

The rest of the undersigned underwent the same fate; in the village of Stanjevatz the Nizams, Tcherkesses, and others tried to force six young girls to embrace the Mahommedan religion, and on their refusal massacred them all. Twelve girls of tender age were carried off into slavery.

In the village of Paieche all the men except six, who took refuge in Servia, were massacred, the young women and girls carried off, and the old ones slaughtered; the children of the same village were cut in two, and the pregnant women ripped up.

These are the crimes which the Turks commit daily; we cannot endure them longer, and we now appear before the Servian authorities to ask a refuge till the time when the Turkish barbarities shall cease.

(Signed) GJIRA GEORGEVITCH.
VASSALIE LILOW.
DIMITRI GEORGEVITCH.
ATHANASIE OJELANOVITCH.
NEDELKO ZIOKOVITCH.
ZIORKO NESCHKOVITCH.
SPASSA KRSTOVITCH.

Executed before me, Prefect of Yagodina,
(Signed) SARITCH.

After signing the above protocol, the persons present added what follows :—

Already in 1861 we complained to the Representatives of the foreign Powers at Belgrade of the atrocities committed by the Turks, and entreated them to be good enough to make representations to their Governments, in order to alleviate the lot of the unfortunate Christian population. Our prayer was not listened to. Turkey certainly promised to alleviate our lot, and to assure us those rights and liberties which all men enjoy; but they never advanced beyond the stage of promises, and the more we raised our voices to ask for peace the more we exposed ourselves to the vengeance of the Turks.

We have lost the hope of ever seeing realized the promises made by the Turks; the cup of our sufferings is overflowing; we have been forced to fly and to find a refuge in the Principality.

We will not go back to Turkey; the promises which will henceforth be made to us will be valueless, considering how impossible we find it to believe in their realisation.

Belgrade, August 2, 1876.

Inclosure 4 in No. 347.

Verbal Declaration made by Three Bulgarian Inhabitants before the Prefect of the District of Tchoupria, August 2nd, 1876, *on the Atrocities committed by the Turks in Bulgaria.*

NOTRE village se trouve à une distance de trois heures seulement de Pirot, les Turcs l'ont incendié et pillé, ils ont de même pillé et brûlé les villages se trouvant à proximité du nôtre; ce sont, Kanischté, Seljatz, Tzruokljischté, Tzrechnanzi, et Ljoubatovatz. Nous étions encore dans notre village quand les Turcs mirent à mort et massacrèrent Velitchko, Sela et Tchira Spassitch de Kanischté, tous honnêtes gens. Les Turcs font périr nos femmes et nos enfants, ou les emmenent en esclavage; ils commettent les cruautés les plus atroces, et déshonorent nos enfants; c'est ainsi qu'au moment de notre fuite en Serbie ils ont arraché à nos gens deux de leurs enfants du sexe feminine dont l'une était agée de six ans et l'autre de douze ans, et les ont emmenés en esclavage; ces enfants sont vendus par eux dans les harems Turcs. Aussitôt qu'il parvient à leur connaissance que dans une famille Chrétienne il vient de naître un enfant du sexe masculin, ils se mettent à sa recherche, et le mettent à mort en morceaux.

Ce sont généralement les Tcherkesses, les Tsiganes, et les Bachi-Bozouks qui commettent toutes ces cruautés; nous n'avons pas à endurer de pareils maux de la part de l'armée Impériale. Quant aux premiers, ils infligent aux Chrétiens tous les maux imaginables.

Autant que nous le savons, les villages que nous venons de citer ont les uns 100 maisons, les autres 50, 40, et 30; leur population s'élève à 700 âmes, 200 âmes, &c., mais nous ne saurions donner les chiffres exacts.

Lors de notre arrivée en Serbie, quelques-uns de nos compatriotes nous ont informés que les Turcs, après avoir trompé nos gens, les ont enfermés dans une tour, située dans un village Bulgare, près de Pirot, à l'endroit même où campa l'armée Serbe avant de se retirer (nous ne saurions préciser l'endroit); puis tout ce qu'il y avait d'hommes et de vieillards fut égorgé, les femmes furent emmenées en esclavage; nous avons appris que les Tcherkesses, les Tziganes, et les Bachi-Bozouks sont les auteurs de ces atrocités.

Nous ne saurions vous raconter autre chose de plus précis, mais les maux que nous font endurer les Turcs sont grands et indescriptibles.

(Signé) MICHEL JOVANOVITCH (Prêtre).
M. VIDANOVITCH.
PIERRE STEFANOF.

Fait par devant moi le Préfet du District.

Le Préfet,

(Signé) RADOVITCH.

(Translation.)

OUR village lies only three hours journey from Pirot; the Turks have burnt and pillaged it, and have likewise burnt and pillaged the villages lying in its neighbourhood, that is to say, Kanischté, Seljatz, Tzruokljischté, Tzrechnanzi, and Ljoubatovatz. We were still in our village when the Turks put to death and massacred Velitchko, Sela, and Tchira Spassitch, of Kanischté, all respectable persons.

The Turks slaughter our wives and children, or carry them off into slavery; they

commit the most atrocious cruelties, and dishonour our children; thus, at the moment of our flight into Servia, they seized from our people two of their children of the female sex, one aged six years the other twelve years, and carried them off into slavery; these children they sell among the Turkish harems. As soon as it comes to their knowledge that a male child is born in a Christian family, they seek it out, and kill it by cutting it in pieces.

Generally it is the Tcherkesses, the Tsiganes, and the Bashi-Bazouks who commit all these cruelties; we have not to endure such evils at the hands of the Imperial army. As to the former, they inflict on the Christians every imaginable evil.

As far as we know, the villages we have just mentioned contain some 100 houses; others 50, 40, and 30; their population reaches 700 souls, 200 souls, &c., but we are not able to give the exact figures.

At the time of our arrival in Servia, some of our fellow countrymen informed us that the Turks, having used treachery to some of our people, shut them up in a tower, situated in a Bulgarian village near Pirot, at the same place where the Servian army encamped before retreating (we cannot give the exact spot); then all the men, including the old men, were slaughtered, and the women carried off into slavery; we have learnt that the Tcherkesses, the Tziganes, and the Bashi-Bazouks are the perpetrators of these atrocities.

We cannot give you anything more precise, but the evils which the Turks make us endure are great and indescribable.

(Signed) MICHEL JOVANOVITCH (Priest).
M. VIDANOVITCH.
PIERRE STEFANOF.

Done before me, the Prefect of the District.
The Prefect,
(Signed) RADOVITCH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 347.

Declaration made by Three Inhabitants of the District of Bergovats, in Bulgaria, on the Atrocities committed by the Tcherkesses and Turks.

L'AUTOMNE dernier déjà lorsque l'armée Serbe était campée sur la frontière, les Turcs nous ont tenus sous les coups de leurs menaces, épiant nos moindres actes, mais quand les troupes Serbes vinrent à la frontière, les autorités Turques annoncèrent dans tous les villages que le Sultan autorisait à tout Chrétien à acheter et à porter des armes. Une foule de Bulgares, trompée de la sorte, achetèrent des fusils et des yatagans, mais au bout de quelque temps les gendarmes Turcs firent leur apparition dans les villages et amassèrent tout ce qu'ils trouvèrent d'armes, et en outre de cela perçurent de chacun d'entre ceux qui avaient des armes un medjidie en argent pour le punir de se les être procurés.

Aussitôt qu'ils apprirent cet été que la Serbie avait l'intention de prendre les armes pour la délivrance du peuple Bulgare, ils se mirent à commettre toutes sortes d'actes de cruauté, sans épargner qui que ce soit, emprisonnant, tuant, et emmenant en esclavage; c'est ainsi qu'avant le passage de la frontière Bulgare par l'armée Serbe, ils pénétrèrent dans notre couvent et emmenèrent dans la forteresse de Berkovatz notre supérieur Makaria. Ils l'enfermèrent, lui mirent des fers aux pieds et aux mains, le soupçonnant d'être en relations avec les Serbes et les Bulgares.

Lorsque l'armée Serbe eut franchi la frontière Turque et pénétré en Bulgarie, et lorsqu'elle eut occupé notre couvent, nous fumes tout à fait libres, mais lorsque l'armée Serbe eut exécuté sa retraite, les Tcherkesses, les Bashi-Bozouks, et les Tsiganes tombèrent sur nous, pillèrent et incendièrent notre couvent, cinq d'entre nous furent massacrés; quant à nous trois c'est au prix de grands efforts que nous parvînmes à nous réfugier en Serbie, tels que vous nous voyez, avec nos vêtements en lambeaux.

Nos gens nous ont informés que les Turcs ont incendié et pillé les villages suivants: Gelesno, Ravno Selo, Gmitrovitza, Tchipourvotzi, Benmel, et Kovatchitza. Les hommes ont été mis à mort ainsi que les vieilles femmes; les jeunes filles ont été emmenées en esclavage.

Ces actes de cruauté ont été généralement commis par les Tcherkesses, les Tsiganes, et les Bachi-Bozouks; nous n'avons pas à endurer de semblables maux de la part des soldats de l'armée régulière. Aujourd'hui ce sont les Tcherkesses, les Tsiganes, et les Bachi-Bozouks qui exerçent ces cruautés, car ils ne souffrent même pas qu'un enfant de

famille Chrétienne vienne au monde, car aussitôt après sa naissance ils vont à sa recherche dans toutes les maisons pour le mettre à mort.

A ce qui précède, nous devons ajouter que non loin de notre couvent, il existe un endroit fortifié connu sous le nom de "Berkovatz." Il est gardé par un canon et 1,000 hommes de l'armée Impériale, qui habitent dans des casernes.

(Signé) GEDEIN TEODOROW.
SERAPHIN GIOKOW.
MAXIME MARKOW.

Fait par devant le Préfet du District.
Le Préfet,
(Signé) RADOVITCH.

Après l'audition arrive M. Bojitch, du village de Kruja, et confirme la déposition des personnes ci-dessus, ajoutant que les villages faisant partie de sa paroisse, et portant le nom de Kruja, Ljoubatovitza, Dol, Donja, Glama, Boukorovatz, ont en moyenne une quarantaine de maisons ; tous ces villages ont été incendiés, les garçons ont été mis à mort par les Turcs, et les filles emmenées en esclavage.

(Signé) MLADEN BOJITCH (Curé).

Belgrade, le 2 *Août,* 1876.

(Translation.)

LAST autumn, when the Servian Army was encamped on the frontier, the Turks kept us under the fear of their threats, watching our slightest actions; but when the Servian troops reached the frontier, the Turkish authorities announced in all the villages that the Sultan gave every Christian leave to buy and carry arms.

Many Bulgarians, deceived in this way, bought guns and yataghans, but shortly afterwards the Turkish gendarmes made their appearance in the villages, and collected all the arms they found, besides which they levied from everyone who had arms a medjidie in silver, to punish him for having procured them.

As soon as they learnt this summer that Servia intended to take up arms for the deliverance of the Bulgarian people, they began to commit all kinds of acts of cruelty, without sparing anyone, putting in prison, killing, and carrring off into slavery; thus, before the Servian army crossed the frontier, they penetrated into our convent, and carried off our superior Makaria into the fortress of Berkowatz. They shut him up, and put irons on his feet and hands, because they suspected him of having relations with the Servians and Bulgarians.

As soon as the Servian army had crossed the Turkish frontier and penetrated into Bulgaria, and when they had occupied our convent, we were completely free, but when the Servian army had executed its retreat, the Tcherkesses, the Bashi-Bazouks, and the Tsiganes fell on us, pillaged and burnt our convent, and five of us were massacred; as to us two, by means of great efforts we succeeded in escaping into Servia just as you see us, with our clothes in rags.

Our people have informed us that the Turks have burnt and pillaged the following villages:—Gelesno, Ravno Selo, Gmitrovitza, Tchipourvotzi, Benmel, and Kovatchitza. The men have been put to death as well as the old women, the young girls have been carried away into slavery.

These acts of cruelty have been generally committed by the Tcherkesses, the Tziganes, and the Bashi-Bazouks; we have not had to endure similar evils at the hands of the soldiers of the regular army. At the present time it is the Tcherkesses, the Tsiganes, and the Bashi-Bazouks who commit these cruelties, for they will not even suffer a child in a Christian family to come into the world, for as soon as it is born, they seek it out in all the houses to put it to death.

To the above we must add that, not far from our convent, there is a fortified place known by the name of "Berkovatz," it is defended by one gun and 1,000 men of the Imperial Army, who are quartered in barracks.

(Signed) GEDEIN TEODOROW.
SERAPHIN GIOKOW.
MAXIME MARKOW.

Done before the Prefect of the District.
The Prefect,
(Signed) RADOVITCH.

After the hearing M. Bojitch arrived from the village of Kruja, and confirmed the deposition made by the above persons, adding that the villages forming part of his

parish, and bearing the names of Kruja, Ljoubatovitza, Dol, Donja, Glama, Boukorovatz, have on the average forty houses; all these villages have been burnt, the boys have been put to death by the Turks, and the girls carried away into slavery.

(Signed) MLADEN BOJITCH (Curé).

Belgrade, August 2, 1876.

Inclosure 6 in No. 347.

Verbal Declaration made by Eight Inhabitants of Bulgaria before the Prefect of Yagodina, August 3rd, 1876, on the Atrocities committed by the Turks on the Bulgarians.

OBJETS de la persécution la plus affreuse de la part des Turcs, nous venons déclarer que nous nous sommes réfugiés sur le territoire Serbe pour échapper nous et nos familles à une mort inévitable.

Voici les détails que nous pouvons donner sur les actes de barbarie, les plus recents, commis par les Turcs. Nos frères pourront faire connaître les cruautés extrêmes, auxquelles nous sommes exposés de la part de nos ennemis.

Le 9 Juin les Turcs ont brûlé cinquante villages, faisant partie du Département de Pirot. A Nichara-Kolou ils ont assassiné tous les hommes, les jeunes femmes et les filles ont été emmenées en esclavage, et les enfants ont été massacrés; toutes les églises, se trouvant dans les localités ci-dessus mentionnées, ont été saccagées et brûlées. Ils ont entre autres emmené environ 20,000 chevaux et bœufs. A Vranitché ils ont massacré les habitants, Thira Spasié, Velitchko Lilie, Zretko Stoianovitch, Gira Kretkonié, Mire Mladenoritch, Stauko Iggnatoritch, et bien d'autres. Ils ont emmené en esclavage la femme de Mine Mladenovitch, la belle-fille de Velitcho Lilié, la femme de Kosta Govanovitch Dala, la femme de Zretko Govanovié Bogitza, avec tous ses enfants ainsi que beaucoup d'autres. Dans le village de Signatz ils ont assassiné Pana Nicolitch et son frère Petko, Velitcko Ginitch, Rista Dimitrovitch. Ils ont emmené en esclavage vingt femmes de ce village. De soixante familles du village de Toplidol, il ne s'en est échappé que quinze, le reste a été massacré. Au village de Zaskovatz, comme dans les autres, on a enlevé tout le bétail. Les cinquante villages ci-dessus mentionnés comptaient environ 3,500 maisons, la moitié seulement des hommes et des enfants, qui composaient la population de ces villages, se sont sauvés; le reste a été massacré ou reduit en esclavage. Ce sont ces actes de barbarie qui nous ont contraint d'abandonner tout jusqu'à nos familles pour sauver notre existance. Nous n'y retournerons plus, tant qu'on n'aura pas mis fin à ces monstrosités, et aussi longtemps que notre liberté personnelle et propriétés ne trouveront aucune garantie.

Nous prions donc les autorités de ce pays de vouloir bien nous assigner un endroit quelconque, où nous puissions demeurer jusqu'au moment, où nous pourrons retourner dans notre pays.

(Signé) MITA RISTIC.
GEOGE IGGNATORIE.
ZRESKO MLADENORIE.
KIRA TOCHIE.
DAUTCHA GOLOUBOR.
NICOLA RISTIC.
GOGA NATKORIE.
MICO ZRETCORIE.

Après avoir signé, ils ajoutèrent encore ceci:—

Kira seul a perdu 600 okas de laine, 300 okas de beurre, 500 okas de fromage, 200 okas de cuivre, 8,000 okas de céréales, un cheval de valeur de 2,500 piastres, des habits d'hommes et de femmes pour une valeur de 3,000 piastres.

A George Iggnatorie on a enlevé tout ce qu'il possédait, un cheval et du grain pour 3,000 piastres au moins.

Zretko Mladenorié a également perdu tout ce qui se trouvait dans sa maison, avec 100 okas de cuivre, 135 têtes de moutons, 46 bœufs et chevaux, le tout évalué à 20,000 piastres.

Outre ces brigandages, les Turcs ont détruit l'église du village de Makitchté et le Monastère de Signetz, l'Eglise de Smokovo, et ont forcé Goga Staveenkorié à souiller le crucifix. Ils ont également détruit l'église de Tzrno-Oklichté. Ils ont brûlé le Monastère de Saint George, après l'avoir complétement dévalisé et avoir massacré le supérieur, qui s'appelait Cesarié. Ils ont emmené 2,000 moutons et chèvres et 150 chevaux et bœufs.

Ils ont également détruit l'Eglise de Topli-dol, celles de Klietchitza, Tzrni-ve, Balta-Berilortzi, Tzerovo, le Monastère Basovie, les églises de Gabrinitza et de Jalovik-Tzvor.

Du jour de la Sainte George 1875, au jour de la Sainte George 1876, les Turcs ont emmené de force cinq filles, dont les pères s'appelent: Stanko Krstié, Stojan Diorgorié, Milossar Kechié, Gloub Stojanosié, et Marko Gikitch. Quatre de ces filles ont été forcées d'embrasser le Musulmanisme, et la cinquième qui, à aucune prix ne veut abandonner sa réligion, endure encore aujourd'hui les plus mauvais traitements. Toutes les filles sont du village de Kalno. Il en est de même des autres parties de notre département, et nous regrettons de ne pas pouvoir nous rappeler les noms des habitants dont les filles ont subi le même sort.

(Signé) GEORGE IGGNATOVITCH.
KIRA JOCHITCH.
ZRETKO MLADENOVITCH.

(Translation.)

BEING subjected to the most dreadful persecution by the Turks, we come to declare that we have taken refuge on Servian territory to escape, both ourselves and our families, from inevitable death.

The following are the details we can give concerning the most recent acts of barbarity committed by the Turks. Our brothers can make known the extreme cruelties to which we are exposed at the hands of our enemies:—

On the 9th of June the Turks burnt fifty villages, forming part of the Department of Pirot. At Nichara-Kolou they murdered all the men, the young women and girls were carried away into slavery, and the children were slaughtered; all the churches situated in the localities above mentioned were sacked and burnt. Amongst other things, they carried off about 20,000 horses and oxen. At Vranitché they massacred the inhabitants, Thira Spasié, Velitchko Lilié, Zretko Stoianovitch, Gira Kratkonié, Mire Mladenovitch, Stauko Iggnatovitch, and many others. They carried off into slavery the wife of Mine Mladenovitch, the daughter-in-law of Velitcho Lilié, the wife of Kosta Govanovitch Dala, the wife of Zretko Govanovié Bogitza, with all her children, as well as many others. In the village of Signatz they murdered Pana Nicolitch and his brother Petko, Velitchko Ginitch, Rista Dimitrovitch. They carried off into slavery twenty women from this village.

Of sixty families of the village of Toplidol, only fifteen escaped; the rest were massacred. At the village of Zaskovatz, as at the others, all the stock was carried off. The fifty villages above mentioned contained about 3,500 houses, and the half only of the men and children who composed the population of these villages were saved; the rest were massacred or reduced to slavery.

It is these acts of barbarity which have forced us to abandon all, even to our families, to save our lives. We shall not return thither till an end has been put to these monstrous deeds, and till our personal liberty and property shall be in some measure guaranteed.

Therefore we entreat the authorities of this country to be so good as to assign us some place where we may dwell until the moment when we can return to our country.

(Signed) MITA RISTIC,
GEORGE IGGNATORIE.
ZRESKO MLADENORIE.
KIRA TOCHIE
DAUTCHA GOLOUBOR.
NICOLA RISTIC.
GOGA NATKORIE.
MICO ZRETCORIE.

After having signed, they further added the following:—

Kira alone has lost 600 okas of wool, 300 okas of butter, 500 okas of cheese, 200 okas of copper, 8,000 okas of corn, a horse of the value of 2,500 piastres, men's and women's clothing to the value of 3,000 piastres.

George Iggnatorié has been robbed of everything he possessed—of a horse and grain to the value of at least 3,000 piastres.

Zretko Mladenorié has likewise lost all that there was in his house, with 100 okas of copper, 135 head of sheep, 46 oxen and horses, the whole valued at 20,000 piastres.

Besides these acts of brigandage, the Turks destroyed the church of the village of Makitchté and the monastery of Signatz, and the church of Smokovo, forcing Goga

Staveenkorié to defile the crucifix. They likewise destroyed the church of Tzrno-Oklichté. They burned the monastery of St. George, after having completely gutted it, and after assassinating the Superior, called Cesarié. They carried off 2,000 sheep and goats, and 150 horses and oxen. They likewise destroyed the church of Topli-dol, those of Klietchitza, Tzrni-ve, Balta-Berilortzi, Tzerovo, the monastery of Basovie, and the churches of Gabrinitza and of Jalovik-Tzvor.

Between the day of St. George, 1875, and the day of St. George, 1876, the Turks have carried off five girls, whose fathers' names are :—Stanko Krstié, Stojan Diorgorié, Milossar Nechié, Gloub Stojanosié, and Marko Gikitch. Four of these girls have been compelled to embrace Mahometanism, and the fifth, who would on no account abandon her religion, still suffers at the present moment the worst treatment.

All these girls come from the village of Kalno. It is the same with the other parts of our department, and we regret not being able to recall the names of the inhabitants whose daughters have undergone the same fate.

(Signed) GEORGE IGGNATOVITCH.
KIRA JOCHITCH.
ZRELKO MLADENOVITCH.

Inclosure 7 in No. 347.

Verbal Declaration made by Four Bulgarian Inhabitants of the Village of Vranischta on the Cruelties committed by the Turks and the Tcherkesses.

DES l'automne dernier les Tcherkesses et les Bachi-Bozouks ont commencé à commettre dans nos villages des atrocités inouies, tuant, incendiant, pillant, déshonorant, emmenant nos enfants en esclavage, nous faisant subir toutes sortes de cruautés. Ils ont livré aux flammes notre village et massacré vingt-et-un personnes tant hommes qu'enfants et vieilles femmes, le reste a été emmené en esclavage ; quelques familles ont pu s'échapper avec nous. Notre village était habité par une cinquantaine de familles ; dans le village de Paiej 120 personnes ont été tuées et le village a été brûlé ; en outre les villages suivants ont été détruits par le feu : savoir Tzrnanjenitza, Ljoubatovatz, Babinkol, Orljé, Basovina, Tagodisch, Kramanovo, Tzrnoklischté, Sinatz, Vitanovzé, Kasié Dilinca, Miranovzi, Tzvor, Chestagora et une foule d'autres qui autant que nous le savons s'élèvent au nombre de 70. Tous ces villages ont été dévastés et incendiés.

Les Tcherkesses ainsi que les Tsiganes et les Bachi-Bozouks ont trompé nos compatriotes lors de la retraite de l'armée Serbe : sur leur assurance que nos hommes n'avaient rien à craindre, ces derniers rétournèrent dans leur village, alors les Turcs les enfermèrent dans un enclos et les égorgèrent, jeunes gens et vieillards, les jeunes filles et les jeunes femmes furent emmenées en esclavage ; nous pouvons affirmer que près de 150 personnes de notre village ont perdu la vie dans cette circonstance.

Dans le nombre des villages que nous venons de citer le plus important est le village de Tchestagovo, qui avait 160 maisons ; après ceci vient Tsvor, qui en possédait 140 ; Osmakovo que les Turcs ont détruit avait 100 maisons, les autres villages était de moindre importance et avaient de 10 à 50 maisons.

Les Tcherkesses brûlent nos villages à l'aide de certaines boules ; ils parcourent à cheval le village et jettent dans les maisons quelque chose qui ressemble à une boule et aussitôt la maison prend feu.

(Signé) J. MORAT.
TOSCHA BOJITCH.
MITAR GIVADINOVITCH.
V. NEY.

Fait par devant le Préfet du District.
Le Préfet,
(Signé) RADOVITCH.
Belgrade, le 4 *Août*, 1876.

(Translation.)

SINCE last autumn the Tcherkesses and Bashi-Bazouks have begun committing unheard-of atrocities in our villages, killing, burning, pillaging, dishonouring, carrying off our children into slavery, and making us endure all sorts of cruelties. They have delivered our village to the flames, and massacred twenty-one persons, men, children, and old women, carrying off the rest into slavery ; a few families were able to escape with us. Our village was inhabited by about fifty families ; in the village of Paiej 120 persons were

killed and the village was burnt; besides this, the following villages have been destroyed by fire:—to wit, Tzrnanjenitza, Ljoubatovatz, Babinkol, Orljé, Basovina, Tagodisch, Kramanovo, Tzrnoklischté, Sinatz, Vitanovzé, Kasié Dilinca, Miranovzi, Tzvor, Chestagora, and a host of others, which, as far as we know, reach the number of 70. All these villages have been sacked and burnt.

The Tcherkesses, as well as the Tsiganes and the Bashi-Bazouks, deceived our fellow-countrymen at the time of the retreat of the Servian army; on their assurance that our men had nothing to fear, these last returned to their village, then the Turks shut them up in an inclosure and slaughtered them, both young and old men, while the young girls and young women were carried away into slavery. We can attest that nearly 150 persons from our village lost their lives on this occasion.

Among the number of villages which we have just cited, the most important is the village of Tchestagovo, which contained 150 houses; after this comes Tsvor, which contained 140; Osmakovo, which the Turks destroyed, had 100 houses, the other villages were of less importance, and had from 10 to 50 houses.

The Tcherkesses burn our villages by means of certain balls; they traverse the village on horseback and throw into the houses something resembling a ball, and at once the house takes fire.

(Signed) J. MORAT.
TOSCHA BOJITCH.
MITAR GIVADINOVITCH.
V. NEY.

Done in presence of the Prefect of the District.
The Prefect,
(Signed) RADOVITCH.
Belgrade, August 4, 1876.

Inclosure 8 in No. 347.

Lieutenant-Colonel Georgévitch to M. Ristitch.

(Télégraphique.) *Alexinatz, le* $\frac{24 \text{ Août}}{5 \text{ Septembre}}$, 1876.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que le détachement de cavalerie régulière Turque qui a pris le $\frac{22 \text{ Août}}{3 \text{ Septembre}}$, à 10 heures du matin, Souka Popovitch, Secrétaire du sous-Comité de la Croix-Rouge d'Alexinatz, ne s'est pas borné à le tuer, mais lui a d'abord abattu et coupé en morceau le bras qui portait le brassard blanc; puis, après avoir tué leur victime d'un coup de feu dans la poitrine, les Turcs ont lacéré la Croix-Rouge à coups de yatagan.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Alexinatz,* $\frac{\text{August } 24}{\text{September } 5}$, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the detachment of regular Turkish cavalry, which captured on the $\frac{22 \text{ August}}{3 \text{ September}}$ Souka Popovitch, Secretary of the Sub-Committee of the Red Cross of Alexinatz, not only killed him, but first knocked him down and cut in pieces the arm which bore the white badge; then, after killing their victim by shooting him through the chest, the Turks cut the Red Cross to pieces with their yataghans.

No. 348.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 14, 1876.

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 11th instant, and of one of this day, which I had the honour to address to your Lordship, I may add the following explanations:—

All the influential public men of Servia have arrived at the conviction that, unless Russia comes openly to declare war against the Porte, the Principality is in extreme peril of being overrun and laid waste by the invading Turkish forces.

Whatever may have been the opinions of some of them formerly, all those who oecupy any position in the country can be brought to admit that Servia alone and unassisted cannot accomplish any practical result or compel the Porte to accept terms advantageous to the former.

Hence a general desire amongst these gentlemen to accelerate the cessation of

hostilities, and put a stop to the atrocities and devastation which mark with ruin and desolation the progress of the invading army of the Suzerain Power.

M. Ristich called upon me last night for the purpose of expressing to me his disappointment that the effusion of blood was continuing, and that the mediation of the Great Powers had not succeeded hitherto in arresting it.

I said to M. Ristich that I had no information whatever to give him as regards the cause of this unfortunate delay, but as he mentioned that he had instructed the Servian Agent at Vienna, M. Tsukitch, to express his apprehensions unofficially to the Austrian Foreign Office on the subject, I promised to communicate the substance of his remarks to your Lordship and the anxiety expressed by him to learn the determination of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the pending negotiations as far as these apply to Servia.

I thought it necessary, however, to point out to M. Ristich certain features of the strange position of affairs in Servia, of which your Lordship will find some account in my subsequent despatches.

I had to tell him that the increasing influence of Russian agents, and the presence of numerous officers and soldiers belonging to that country, must exercise a baneful effect on the deliberations of peace in the Principality, where the masses were accustomed to look up to Russsia as their natural protector.

I added that it might ultimately prove a great misfortune for his country to find itself entangled in the meshes of a Russian political party, which might be even acting independently though concurrently with the Imperial Cabinet.

M. Ristich admitted all this, and expressed his concern with the strange turn affairs had taken; he and some of his colleagues had on previous occasions intimated to me that General Tchernaieff had acted throughout much more like a Russian General working for Imperial or even Panslavistic objects than as one in command of the Servian forces, and that they could not contemplate without considerable anxiety the progress in Servia of a completely new series of political notions and the growing influence amongst the masses of sympathies and of an influence to which the people here had hitherto been strangers.

All this appeared to me ought to be an inducement to the public men of Servia to accelerate the conclusion of peace, and I told M. Ristich so, who appeared to agree with me, but said he could not come forward openly as the advocate of peace as long as the Porte continued to put forward terms and conditions which could not be accepted by Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 349.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 16, 1876.*

THE entire attention as regards military events has been concentrated during the past fortnight on Alexinatz.

Persons who arrived here from that place, and who had witnessed the battle of the 1st instant were under the impression that the Turks might have occupied that fortress on the night following the battle of that day.

On the next day, however, the Servians rallied, and nothing really serious has been done by the Turkish army since, though there have been occasional dashes of cavalry to interrupt the Servian communications between Alexinatz and Deligrad, and even an attempt was made unsuccessfully to cross the Morava in that place.

The Turkish army has pushed its way as far as the neighbourhood of Djuni, down the river opposite to Deligrad, burning all the villages in their track.

The right bank of the River Morava has been in the meantime evacuated by the Turks, and the Servians under Horvatovitch are thus in unchallenged possession of it as far as Khatun.

It is quite surprising to see how little progress the Turkish forces have succeeded in affecting after nearly three months' fighting on Servian soil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A WHITE.

No. 350.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 17, 1876.*

SOME months ago I had the honour to state, in one of my despatches to your Lordship, that in her policy with regard to Turkey, Servia could hardly be called a free agent.

At that time such an observation appeared true only to a very few persons here, but the last few months or weeks have confirmed it in a most evident manner, and any stranger arriving here can soon obtain a conviction on that subject.

Every day a large number of Russian officers and men continue to arrive, and the cafés and public places are full of them, many of them wearing the Russian uniform during their stay here, which, however, is very short, as they at once proceed to the front.

There they have everything in their own hands, and the native officers are now a comparatively insignificant minority.

The presence of these sympathizing strangers exercises an immense influence on the opinion of the inhabitants, who are gradually becoming imbued with a deep conviction of the power and willingness of Russia to assist them.

Money is likewise flowing from Russia, and though it does not find its way into the National Exchequer, it dazzles the imaginations of the people.

During this time M. de Kartzoff has acquired a position which gives him a preponderating influence, one may almost say in the councils of Servia; he is in daily communication with the Imperial Chancellor at Livadia by telegraph, and the knowledge that his instructions are derived from the Czar himself, lends force to every word of advice or encouragement emanating from him, and impresses the people as if coming with the highest sanction.

At no previous time was the influence of Russia here so open, so direct, and so decisive, and in drawing up schemes for the restoration of tranquillity this fact must be borne in mind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 351.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 17, 1876.*

IN compliance with the instructions received from your Lordship by telegraph yesterday morning, I at once communicated to the Servian Government the information that the Porte had ordered Turkish commanders to suspend hostilities, and I recommended that similar orders should be given at once to the Servian commanders.

In the course of the day I received another telegram from your Lordship, and two from Sir Henry Elliot, by which I was informed of the views of the Porte on the subject of these negotiations.

A Cabinet Council was at once convoked by Prince Milan, and after much discussion and several interviews, M. Ristich came to my house late in the evening to inform me that in compliance with my suggestion orders similar to those issued by the Porte were about to be sent this morning to the Servian commanders.

An idea had been entertained to instruct General Tchernaieff to send a flag of truce to the Turkish Commander-in-chief for the purpose of establishing an understanding as to this cessation of hostilities, but this was given up; and M. Ristich only suggested that it would be highly desirable if the Seraskier could be induced to signify to the General opposed to him his mode of carrying out this cessation of hostilities, and that both sides should be pledged not to renew hostilities without previous notice of such intention.

As my personal responsibility in the matter is considerable, and as I have not received any assistance from any of my colleagues, your Lordship will no doubt kindly appreciate my desire that no misunderstanding should by any possibility arise on either side.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 352.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 22.)

My Lord, *Athens, September* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, at an interview I had the day before yesterday with the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, I informed him that the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London had placed in your Lordship's hands, on the 26th ultimo, a despatch which he had received from his Government calling the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government to the intention of the Porte to establish fresh bodies of Circassian colonists in the Provinces bordering upon Greece; and I likewise informed him, in pursuance of the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 26th ultimo, that you had told M. Gennadius that you would inform Sir Henry Elliot of the statement he had made, and direct his Excellency to speak seriously to the Ottoman Government on the subject.

M. Contostavlos, in expressing his thanks for this communication, added that he was very anxious to obtain a promise from the Porte that no fresh Circassian colonists should be established in the Province of Macedonia any more than in Thessaly and Epirus, as he said that the inhabitants of Macedonia were chiefly Greeks, in many cases connected by mutual interest and by ties of relationship with the inhabitants of the Hellenic Kingdom, and that any steps taken on the part of the Porte to introduce more Circassians into Macedonia would create intense irritation in Greece.

I may mention to your Lordship that M. Contostavlos, in speaking of the Greek Provinces of the Ottoman Empire, said that the reports he had lately received from his Consular authorities in Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia depicted the position of the Christians as intolerable ("insupportable"), owing to the absence of security of life and property, and to the exactions of the Government officials who demanded that cattle, horses, corn, and money should be furnished to the Government, and he expressed the hope that the position of the Christians in these Provinces, which, at the advice of Greece had abstained from revolt, would not be forgotten.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have seen M. Contostavlos, who informed me that in his instructions to M. Gennadius he had from the outset desired him to invoke the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the introduction of Circassians into Macedonia, as well as into Thessaly and Epirus.

H. W.

No. 353.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 22.)

My Lord, *Rome, September* 19, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a telegram from Signor Durando, Italian Representative in Montenegro, which has been communicated to me by Signor Melegari. It contains the answer of Prince Nikita to the message sent to him by the Italian Government, concerning the suspension of hostilities at the request of your Lordship, and was received here last night.

Signor Melegari remarked to me that the precautions observed by the Prince in the orders which he has given to his subordinates shows that he is advised by capable officers.

His Excellency did not feel sure that the order to suspend hostilities would be considered by the Turks to involve their making no attempt to obtain supplies. The terms of the Prince's letter also, his Excellency thought, intimated that the Montenegrin troops held advantageous positions. He informed me that on the 17th the Turkish Minister had, in the name of his Government, requested him to telegraph both to Servia and to Montenegro, to recommend that orders should be given similar to those issued by the Porte, regarding the suspension of hostilities, and his Excellency had acceded to the request.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 353.

M. Durando to M. Melegari.

(Télégraphique.) *Danilograd, le 18 September*, 1876.

LE Prince de Montenégro, pour préciser mieux ses communications verbales, m'a écrit une lettre où il déclare avoir donné ce soir à ses Commandants ordres conçus dans le même sens du Mémorandum de la Porte aux Puissances Garantes, pour la suspension des hostilités, bien entendu sous les conditions que les troupes Turques et Montenégrins conservent les positions qu'elles occupent actuellement. En conséquence, il regardera comme acte offensif tout mouvement de Moukhtar Pacha pour se dégager de la position actuelle, ainsi que son ravitaillement, qui lui est à présent empêché. De même cela sera pour le blocus des forteresses de Nichsich et de Medun. Le Prince remercie le Gouvernement du Roi pour l'intérêt qu'il lui témoigne, et prie votre Excellence d'exprimer au Gouvernement Anglais la gratitude pour la bienveillante communication, et sa satisfaction d'entrer avec lui en rapports même indirects. Je prie votre Excellence de me préciser si c'est bien le 25 du courant le terme de l'armistice.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Danilograd, September* 18, 1876.

THE Prince of Montenegro, in order to explain more definitely his verbal communications, has written to me a letter in which he declares that he has this evening given orders to his commanders drawn up in the same sense as the Memorandum of the Porte to the Guaranteeing Powers, for the suspension of hostilities, on the condition, be it understood, that the Turkish and Montenegrin troops continue to occupy the positions which they actually hold. Consequently, he will consider any movement on the part of Moukhtar Pasha to release himself from his actual position as an offensive step, as also his revictualling, from which he is debarred for the present. The same conditions will apply to the blockade of the fortresses of Nichsich and Medun. The Prince thanks the King's Government for the consideration it shows him, and begs your Excellency to express to the English Government his gratitude for its friendly communication, and his satisfaction at entering even into indirect relations with it. I beg your Excellency to inform me whether the armistice really expires on the 25th instant.

No. 354.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Rome, September 19*, 1876.

SIGNOR MELEGARI informed me to-day that he had received a telegram from the Italian Ambassador at Berlin saying that M. de Bülow seemed to think that the basis of pacification proposed by your Lordship might now be regarded as uniting the views of the Powers, since the explanations given regarding local autonomy would probably remove the scruples of Austria.

His Excellency went on to talk in a general way of the next step. He seemed to think that it would first be necessary to induce the Porte to accept the principle of mediation—that then the prolongation of the suspension of hostilities would have to be obtained, and finally the discussion of the terms proposed must ensue; but his Excellency feared that it would be impossible to arrive at united action on this point at Constantinople by sending telegraphic messages to the Ambassadors.

The telegraph, he conceived, served very well to prepare the Representatives for what was to follow in writing, but instructions such as would be absolutely necessary in such a case could not be sent complete by it. It did not appear to him that the final arrangement could be arrived at without a Congress, and in that case the question would arise of the presence of the Turkish Representatives, and the Porte would have effected a great deal if she succeed in obtaining admission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 355.

Count Andrassy to Count Wolkenstein.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Wolkenstein, September* 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Vienne, le* 22 *Septembre,* 1876.

POUR faire réponse à votre rapport télégraphique du 21 du courant, j'ai à vous informer que M. l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique près la Cour Impériale et Royale m'a communiqué le texte des instructions données à Sir Henry Elliot.

J'ai pu constater que, dans les instructions précitées, Lord Derby se réfère, dans des termes qui répondent à nos vues, à la dépêche du 30 Décembre dernier.

Je n'hésite pas, en conséquence, à vous autoriser à déclarer à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique que nous sommes d'accord avec le Cabinet Anglais, par rapport à cette démarche, et que nous chargeons notre Ambassadeur à Constantinople de la seconder.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 22, 1876.

IN reply to your telegraphic report of the 21st instant, I have to inform you that Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at the Imperial and Royal Court has communicated to me the text of the instructions given to Sir Henry Elliot.

I have been able to ascertain that, in the above-mentioned instructions, Lord Derby refers, in terms corresponding to our views, to the despatch of the 30th Decembe last.

Consequently, I do not hesitate to authorize you to declare to Her Britannic Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, that we concur with the English Cabinet as regards this step, and that we are instructing our Ambassador at Constantinople to support it.

No. 356.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 22, 1876.

THE Turkish Ambassador has informed me that he has received a telegram from his Government dated the 20th instant, in which he is informed that the Porte had learnt that certain proposals had been countenanced by Her Majesty's Government with regard to the reforms to be undertaken in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the nature of which it had not been able to ascertain, but which had met with active opposition from the Cabinet of Vienna.

He added that the telegram went on to protest against any diplomatic intervention on the part of the Powers in the affairs of these provinces, which would, in the opinion of the Porte, be a violation of the sovereign rights of the Sultan.

It is unnecessary for me to inform your Excellency that the alarm of the Porte respecting the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, as well as respecting their reception at Vienna, is owing to the fact that it has not yet been made acquainted with the proposals, and has been misinformed as to their nature; but I should wish you to state to the Austro-Hungarian Government that this protest has been made, and to point out the danger of allowing the Porte to suppose at present that there exists any want of unanimity among the mediating Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 357.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 22, 1876.

AS you will by this time be in possession of the telegraphic instructions which I have sent to Sir H. Elliot, directing him to communicate to the Porte the proposals suggested by Her Majesty's Government as the basis of pacification, I should wish you to communicate them without delay to the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* A similar despatch was addressed to Mr. Macdonell.

No. 358.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 22, 1876.

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me to-day and gave me the accompanying copy of a telegraphic despatch from Constantinople to the effect that the Porte has learned that Her Majesty's Government has countenanced proposals of reform in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and that this idea is actively opposed by the Austrian Cabinet.*

The despatch goes on to protest against any diplomatic interposition in the affairs of those Provinces as contrary to the sovereign rights of the Porte.

I remarked to his Excellency that I could not see how his Government could maintain that proposals for the better government of these Provinces were incompatible with the independence of the Ottoman Empire, inasmuch as in February last the Porte had accepted the main proposals in Count Andrassy's note of the 30th of December, 1875, and had engaged to carry them out, and declared itself determined to put them in force in the two Provinces in all their integrity.

The Porte had also, at various times, agreed, at the instance of and in communication with the Powers, to special systems of government for the Lebanon, Crete, and other Provinces, and it was too late now to raise objections to such a course on the ground that it would endanger the independence of Turkey. The Powers had not abandoned the right to urge upon the Sultan the proper treatment of his Christian subjects, and recent events had shown that the exercise of this right was now more than ever necessary. I had never failed to intimate that an effective reform of the administration of the disturbed Provinces with securities for its proper execution was a condition on which the mediating Powers must insist as necessary to a full and satisfactory pacification.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 359.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received September 22, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 22, 1876.

I HAVE read to Count Andrassy the copy of your Lordship's instructions of yesterday to Sir H. Elliot as to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for negotiating peace, and his Excellency will immediately instruct the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at London to express his assent to them, and will instruct Count Zichy to support them.

No. 360.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 22, 1876.

WITH reference to the conditions attached by the Prince of Montenegro to the suspension of hostilities, as reported in your telegram of the 20th instant, I learn from Baron Orczy that His Highness, having made a similar communication to the Austrian Government, has been informed that the suspension of hostilities must be unconditional.

His Excellency does not believe Moukhtar Pasha's position to be so bad as the Prince describes it, and that he will be quite justified in receiving convoys of provisions from the Herzegovina.

No. 361.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, September* 18, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed copy of a despatch addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the 15th instant,

* No. 345. † Repeated to Embassies.

respecting the present state of this Vilayet and some changes in the Government thereof.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 361.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot

(Extract.) *Rustchuk, September* 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have heard, in several well-informed quarters here, that foreign emissaries are again at work in this vilayet endeavouring to stir up the Bulgarians to a renewal of the insurrection. This, I think, is beyond doubt, but I have not, as yet, been able to ascertain whether they have any chance of succeeding. I think not, however. I hope to learn soon.

The Bulgarian Revolutionary Committee at Bucharest is also said to be extremely active at this moment.

The Government should exercise great vigilance, so as to thwart in time the views of the emissaries, as well as of the Committee, which, if successful, would not only expose the Bulgarians to a far worse state of things than has hitherto occurred, but would also severely tax the present limited means at the disposal of the authorities here.

These people are greatly encouraged by the passage of Russians by the Austrian steamers for Servia, which continues at the average rate of about 150 per steamer.

The news arrived here yesterday that Assym Pasha, the Governor-General, is transferred to Adrianople, and is replaced here by Rifaat Pasha of Widdin, and that Hakki Pasha, late President of the Commission that was established here for the trial of the insurgents, is appointed Governor of the latter place.

The nomination of Rifaat Pasha of Widdin is, I believe, generally welcomed here by the Turks; but that of Hakki Pasha to Widdin has created a very bad impression amongst the Bulgarians, from his austere bearing towards the prisoners he tried, and Ilias Effendi, who defended them.

The Bulgarians are also very sore at seeing Nedjib Agha, the leader in many of the atrocities committed in the neighbourhood of Tirnova, circulating here on the most intimate terms with the local authorities. Had the Porte avoided the two circumstances I have alluded to, it would have acted wisely; for this irritation does a deal of mischief, and will, beyond doubt, render all attempts at reconciliation extremely difficult.

In the public interest, therefore, I deem it my duty to respectfully recommend the subject to your Excellency's consideration.

No. 362.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)

My Lord, *Paris, September* 22, 1876.

JUST as the messenger is leaving the Embassy, I have received your Lordship's telegram directing me to communicate to the French Government the instructions which your Lordship has sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople respecting the conditions to be pressed upon the Porte as bases of peace.

The Duc Decazes left Paris for a short time last evening, but I will immediately write to let him know the contents of your Lordship's telegram to Sir Henry Elliot of last evening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 363.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 23, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 16th instant, inclosing a copy of a note which you addressed to the Italian Government, requesting them to recommend the

Montenegrin Government, through their representative at Montenegro, to give instructions to their commanders to suspend hostilities, and I have to acquaint you that I approve the terms of your note.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 364.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 23, 1876, 12·10 P.M.*

THE belief that the Sclav Provinces which have been in insurrection are about to be endowed with special privileges through the intervention of the Powers is beginning to produce a strong feeling of discontent among the Greeks.

They say that it will be a lesson to them that, if they are to expect anything, they must rise against the Government.

Unless the Porte can be persuaded to adopt for the whole Empire, or at least for the European portion of it, measures of reform analogous to those to be given to the northern Provinces, the seed of certain future trouble will be sown.

No. 365.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 23, 1876.*

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires in London tells me that his Government have given their assent to the proposals which you have been instructed to make to the Porte; and that the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to support them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 366.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 23, 1876, 4·30 P.M.*

I HAVE acquainted Baron Orczy with substance of your Lordship's telegram of last night as to the alleged opposition of the Vienna Cabinet to your proposals for peace, and he said the best contradiction of the report was the instructions sent yesterday to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople to support them.

The Turkish Ambassador here had spoken to me in the same sense as the telegram from the Porte, communicated to your Lordship, and I answered, that the report must have originated in Count Andrassy's objection to the creation of new tributary States in Turkey, but that the Austrian Government had entirely agreed in the views of your Lordship.

There is still much anxiety here as to how far Russia has accepted your Lordship's interpretation of autonomy.

No. 367.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September 10, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a General Order which has been issued by the Commander-in-chief Nousret Pasha, for the conduct and guidance of the Yeni-bazaar Corps d'Armée operating in Servia. This Order has been printed and

* Repeated to Embassies.

sent to the officers of every detachment, with strict injunctions that they should read it to the soldiers at morning and evening parade and attend to its execution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 367.

General Order by Nousret Pasha.

(Traduction.)

JE veux vous expliquer les instructions dont vous avez besoin pour l'accomplissement de vos devoirs.

Après avoir accomplis vos devoirs religieux, devoirs les plus sacrés pour vous, vous devez être patients et persévérants, et dans la victoire miséricordieux.

Vous devez être braves, et en temps de paix vous devez defendre l'existence, l'honneur et les possessions tant des sujets Ottomans que de ceux des Puissances amies.

Vous devez être soumis aux ordres des officiers, et accomplir les services qui vous seraient confiés avec fidélité et devouement.

La base de la guerre est l'offensive et la defensive: la guerre se divise en deux sortes, l'extérieure et l'intérieure.

L'extérieure est celle entre deux Gouvernements.

L'intérieure est celle que nous faisons maintenant.

Le but de la guerre extérieure c'est l'anéantissement de l'adversaire, tandis que l'intérieure a pour but la tranquillité et l'amélioration de l'état et condition des révoltés qui auraient abandonné les armes pour se soumettre.

Vous devez d'après la doctrine Musulmane les considérer comme vos enfants, protéger leurs existences et leurs possessions comme vous feriez pour les vôtres.

Si pendant la guerre parmi les révoltés Serbes ou Monténégrins vous rencontriez de ceux qui reconnaîtraient Sa Majesté notre Sultan, et qui feraient acte de soumission, vous devez protéger leurs vies et possessions; à plus forte raison votre conduite doit être la même envers des habitants paisibles et soumis. Mais si par hasard un de vous prend même une poule sans le consentement de son propriétaire, il sera immédiatement jugé et fusillé—c'est la loi qui l'ordonne.

Des Ordres Impériaux puniront également sans délai quiconque aura touché ou cherché à prendre les biens des sujets soumis dans l'intérieure du pays.

Nous avons fait connaître ces ordres par des avis afin qu'ils soient exécutés.

Vous devez savoir en outre que les habitants de la Serbie et du Monténégro étaient des gens paisibles et soumis s'occupant de leurs travaux des champs et du commerce; et qu'ils ont été entraînés à la révolte par des intrigues et agissements extérieures.

Le Gouvernement Impérial ne fait pas à présent la guerre au peuple commerçant et agriculteur, mais à ceux qui l'ont excité malgré lui à prendre les armes, et c'est pour les punir suivant leurs degrés de culpabilité.

Voilà donc, soldats, les ordres que je devais vous transmettre et auxquelles vous devez prêter toute votre attention.

(Signé) NOUSRET.

(Translation.)

I WISH to explain to you the instructions which you require for the accomplishment of your duties.

After having fulfilled your religious duties, which should be the most sacred of all for you, you should be patient and persevering, and merciful if victorious.

You should be brave, and in times of peace you should defend the lives, honour, and property both of Ottoman subjects, and of those of friendly Powers.

You should be obedient to the orders of your officers, and perform with fidelity and devotion the duties entrusted to you.

The basis of war is offensive and defensive; and it is divided into two kinds, foreign war and civil war.

Foreign war is that between two Governments.

Civil war is that in which we are now engaged.

The object of foreign war is the annihilation of the adversary, whereas civil war has for object the tranquillity and amelioration of the state and condition of the insurgents who lay down their arms and submit.

According to Mussulman tenets you should look upon them as your children, protect their lives and their property as you would your own.

If during the war with the insurgent Servians and Montenegrins you should meet some who recognize His Majesty our Sultan, and who submit, you should protect their lives and possessions; and still more must your conduct be such towards peaceable and unresisting inhabitants. But if one of you should chance to take even a chicken without the consent of the owner, he will be immediately tried and shot—thus the law ordains.

Anyone who shall touch or attempt to take the property of peaceable subjects in the interior of the country will also be punished without delay by virtue of Imperial orders.

We have made known these orders in order that they may be executed.

You should know that the inhabitants of Servia and Montenegro were peaceful and orderly people, occupied with field labours and mercantile pursuits, and that they have been induced to revolt by foreign intrigues and agitators.

The Imperial Government makes war not on the merchants and agriculturists, but on those who have excited them to take up arms in spite of themselves, and with a view to punish them according to their several degrees of culpability. These, soldiers, are the orders which I have to transmit to you, and to which you must give all your attention.

(Signed) NOUSRET.

No. 368.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September 10, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of my despatch of the 8th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 368.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, September 8, 1876.*

I HAVE just seen a telegram of yesterday's date (wired through here this morning) from Ali Pasha, at Larissa, commanding the troops in Thessaly, to the Commander-in-chief of the 3rd Army Corps at Monastir, reporting that he had been informed by one of the Commanders of the Turkish Frontier Guard "that subscriptions are being collected in all the towns in Greece in behalf of the Servians, and that the male population from the ages of fifteen to sixty are drilled by sergeants and corporals, detached for the purpose by the War Department."

I have given a literal translation of the telegram as far as I remember the wording of it in Turkish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 369.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

My Lord, *Athens, September 15, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I had to-day a conversation on the Eastern question with a Greek gentleman whom I believe to be thoroughly well acquainted with European politics.

He commenced by deploring the extent to which the agitation in England was being carried with regard to the atrocities lately committed in Bulgaria, and he expressed the greatest astonishment that the people of England should be so blind as not to perceive that they were entirely playing into the hands of Russia. If any further aggrandizement, he said, of the Slav Empire was permitted, what a menace to other States would Russia become!

Your Lordship is, I think, already aware that the Greeks are very jealous of, and

averse to, any extension of Russian influence in Turkey in Europe, and as a proof of this and of the absence of sympathy with the Servian cause, my friend called my attention to the fact that a sum of only about 4,000 drachmas (138*l.*) had been collected in Athens in aid of the Servian sick and wounded.

The agitation, my Lord, which is going on in England, has naturally attracted a great deal of attention here, and extracts from Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet are published in the Greek newspapers and give rise of course to much speculation as to what the policy of England will be.

I have little hesitation in saying that if the public in Greece see that Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria are to be granted the right of self-government, an agitation will commence in this country with a view of obtaining a like concession to the provinces of Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 370.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

My Lord, *Paris, September 23, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter which I wrote to the Duc Decazes last evening, and in which, in obedience to your Lordship's commands, I stated the substance of the instructions respecting the basis of pacification which were sent by your Lordship on the day before yesterday by telegraph to Sir Henry Elliot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 370.

Lord Lyons to the Duc Decazes.

My dear Minister, *Paris, September 22, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government hold the conditions of peace proposed by the Porte to be inadmissible, and they have learned that the other Powers are of the same opinion.

Sir H. Elliot has been instructed by telegram to inform the Porte of this, and to state that the provisions which Her Majesty's Government regard as proper to form the basis of a pacification are the following:—

1st. The *status quo* speaking roughly both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

2nd. That the Porte shall at the same time undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and the Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy, by which is to be understood a system of local institutions, which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

3rd. Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against maladministration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

Sir H. Elliot has, moreover, been directed to state to the Porte that the reforms to which it has already agreed in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th February last will be expected to be included in the Administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and, so far as they may be applicable, in those for Bulgaria.

Sir H. Elliot is authorized to tell the Ottoman Government that Her Majesty's Government are confident that the proposals they thus make will obtain a general support by the other Powers.

He is directed to impress upon the Porte the urgency of the situation and the advantage it would derive from a prompt and ready acceptance of the proposed basis of pacification.

He is also instructed to point out that the continuance of hostilities while the conditions of peace are being dealt with between the Powers and the Porte, would be obviously inexpedient, and to insist that an early arrangement shall be made for the conclusion of a formal armistice.

Lord Derby desires me to make known these instructions to you, and in doing so I am happy, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 371.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 23, 1876.*

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires tells me that the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government, which he is instructed to support, differ in some degree from those of your telegram to me of the 21st. By his instructions Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, are to be provided with large measure of local autonomy without political separation; and he says that as the distinction made in my instructions between Bulgaria and the other provinces does not exist in his, he will have to refer to his Government.

Any mention of word autonomy, as applied to Bulgaria, ought to be, in my opinion, avoided, both on account of resistance to be expected from the Porte, and for the real objections to which it is open.

No. 372.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 23, 1876, 3·30 P.M.*

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphed from head-quarters last night that the reports of breach of armistice by the Turks are unfounded. On Sunday premonitory alarm of attack by enemy led to repeated discharges of musketry from outposts. Last night enemy opened fire on the same points, and provoked return fire, with occasional shots from batteries there situated; on no occasion have the Turks advanced a foot, nor fired, except to repel threatened attacks. Sir Arnold can testify to the utmost forbearance of the Turks, who do not respond except in the rear of the position to the repeated shells fired at watering-parties, and even within camp.

No. 373.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 24, 1876, 4 P.M.*

THE French Ambassador received to-day the despatch from the Duc Decazes, alluded to in Lord Lyons' telegram of the 19th, stating that French Government intended to urge on the Porte the necessity of taking measures to prevent atrocities being committed by disbanded irregular troops, and expressing a hope that the other Powers will do so likewise. The Austrian Government have, however, already, I am told, called the attention of the Porte to this subject, and more especially to excesses committed in Albania by troops leaving the army on the frontier of Montenegro.

No. 374.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 24, 1876, 6 P.M.*

I HAVE sent following to Consul at Belgrade:—

"Porte has not yet consented to formal armistice, but will prolong formal suspension of hostilities to October 2, and orders the military commanders not to resume offensive without distinct orders."

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 375.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 24, 1876, 7·20 P.M.*

I HAVE sent following to Belgrade :—

"Sir A. Kemball telegraphs that the Servians have fired shells daily on the Turkish watering-parties and foraging parties within the line of the Turkish outposts, as it was on the day the armistice was named."

Sir A. Kemball adds: "Turks say armistice prolonged till 2nd October; if so, Russian officers ought to be required to cease firing shells within Turkish line of outposts."

No. 376.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 24, 1876.*

THE Sultan sent to me this afternoon to ask my advice in the difficult position in which he finds himself.

He said that the acceptance of the armistice would cost him his throne, and he dare not venture upon it in face of public opinion; but he is ready at once to make peace upon the conditions to be proposed by the Powers, and, upon accepting them, to put an entire end to hostilities.

He hopes he will not be urged to make immediate arrangements for the insurgent provinces, as the concession to them of special privileges will provoke insurrection in other parts.

He is determined to take, at once, measures to give to the Empire institutions which shall secure to all provinces the advantages desired for Bosnia and the Herzegovine, and he is ready to give an engagement in writing that if within three months measures in question are not taken such as to satisfy the Powers, he will submit to those which they may dictate.

I said that this declaration on the part of His Majesty made me hope that there would be no difficulty in obtaining the accession of his Government to the conditions which I am to communicate to-morrow on the part of Her Majesty's Government; for, as regards the insurgent provinces, they only ask for the signature of a Protocol such as His Majesty himself suggested.

I gave the substance of the conditions to His Majesty's messenger, who thought that he would agree to them.

No. 377.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 24, 1876, 10·20 P.M.*

AT a meeting of the foreign Representatives to-day the Russian Chargé d'Affaires told us that he was not yet authorized to support conditions of peace as contained in your telegram of the 21st. He wished me to postpone communicating to the Porte, and that we should, for the present, confine ourselves to pressing for an armistice. I said that, although Her Majesty's Government had asked for armistice, the object to be attained from it was the conclusion of peace, and the Porte seemed ready to make peace at once on the conditions proposed by the Powers. If we could obtain that result without preliminary armistice it would be a clear gain. Your Lordship's instructions to me were explicit, and I must act on them without delay. They were dated last Thursday, and I must execute them to-morrow.

Russian Chargé d'Affaires said he must wait for instructions before supporting them; and the other Representatives, although already provided with necessary authority, said that, in that case, they would defer all action till Tuesday. But some of them warmly approved my determination to make communication, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, to-morrow. It was more than ever evident that the Russians care little about peace, but much about an armistice.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 378.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September* 13, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd ultimo, and to previous correspondence respecting the treatment of the belligerents on Austrian soil, I have the honour to report that the Turkish soldiers who were interned at Klagenfurt have been restored to liberty, and were forwarded to Albania by the last steamer bound from Trieste to Scutari.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 379.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September* 14, 1876.

THE Baron de Lichtenberg, the German Consul here, who is at present somewhat of an invalid, received the night before last a letter from the Prince of Montenegro, a copy of which I have seen. It is dated the 8th instant, and states that, as the Montenegrin army occupies a large portion of Turkish territory (!), and as it is clear that the Ottoman troops cannot obtain any decisive advantage, His Highness hopes that the Six Powers will agree to concert with the Porte the terms of an acceptable peace, for which purpose it would be expedient to summon a Conference.

His Highness says that, in pursuance of an understanding between them, Prince Milan and he have addressed themselves to the Six Powers; and I conclude, therefore, that a similar letter has been sent to Mr. Green, Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari, and that it is unnecessary for me to trouble your Lordship any further on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 380.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September* 15, 1876.

I FIND it extremely difficult, indeed impossible, to arrive at any idea of the military movements which may be taking place in the south of Montenegro, as I fear that the telegrams which I have recently forwarded will only too clearly have proved.

The Montenegrins declare that the Turks have now retreated, and they themselves are advancing on the frontier.

On the other hand, the Turkish Consul-General here received last night a telegram, of which I enclose a copy, announcing a Turkish success.

On this side I believe that all remains quiet, and that Moukhtar Pasha continues to occupy the same position near Klobuck.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 380.

Moustapha Pasha to Danish Effendi.

(Télégraphique.) *Scutari, le* 14 *Septembre,* 1876, 5·5 P.M.

JE m'empresse de vous informer que environ 1,500 Montenégrins ont attaqué hier 500 volontaires de Constantinople et 300 zeibeks environ, qui gardaient Pikla du côté de Gruda. Après une heure de combat l'ennemi a pris la fuite, et a été poursuivi par les volontaires, qui se sont distingués. L'ennemi envoya en secours trois bairaks, en détachant trois autres, qu'il dirigea à Dinocha; mais là aussi il essuya une défaite complète, et fut poursuivi pendant une heure. Le Commandant des volontaires, Salih

Pacha, dût retourner le lendemain, l'ennemi ayant pris la fuite. Les Montenégrins ont perdu plus de 300 morts, tandis que nos pertes ne s'élèvent qu'à douze morts et autant de blessés.

(Signé) MOUSTAPHA.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, September* 14, 1876, 5·5 P.M.

I HASTEN to inform you that about 1,500 Montenegrins attacked yesterday 500 volunteers from Constantinople, and about 300 Zeibeks, who were guarding Pikla on the Gruda side. After an hour's combat, the enemy took flight, and were pursued by the volunteers, who distinguished themselves. The enemy sent to the rescue 3 bairaks, detaching 3 others, which they directed to proceed to Dinocha; but there also they experienced a complete defeat, and were pursued for an hour. The Commander of the volunteers, Salib Pacha, had to return the next day, the enemy having taken flight. The Montenegrins lost more than 300 dead, while our losses amounted to only 12 dead, and as many wounded.

No. 381.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 25.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September* 17, 1876.

M. YONINE telegraphs to his Government, from the camp of the Prince of Montenegro, that Dervish Pasha continues to make feints on the Albanian frontier, but attempts nothing in the way of a serious attack. He adds that Moukhtar Pasha is completely hemmed in by the Montenegrins and insurgents, and that the latter, under Peko Paulovics, intercept all his supplies.

I am told by the Acting Consul-General for Russia that some Russian officers, who passed through Ragusa this morning on their way from Belgrade to Cettigné, describe the condition of the Servian army as miserable in the extreme. They accuse the Servians of abject cowardice; complain bitterly of the treatment of the Russian volunteers; declare that the Russian officers have been shot in battle by the soldiers under their command; and speak of General Tchernaieff as being utterly disgusted with his troops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 382.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 25.)

My Lord, *Berlin, September* 18, 1876.

IN accordance with your Lordship's telegram of this day's date, I stated to M. de Bülow that I had been instructed by your Lordship to inform him that the construction put by the German Government on the words "local or administrative autonomy" is correct; and I again repeated to his Excellency that your Lordship's words meant to convey that the populations of the insurgent provinces of Turkey should have some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees given to them against the exercise of arbitrary authority.

M. de Bülow replied that, as he had already stated to me, the German Government fully understood the signification attached to the above expressions by Her Majesty's Government, and it was in that sense that he had reported to the Emperor and to Prince Bismarck the proposals of Her Majesty's Government.

His Excellency again referred to the great satisfaction felt by the Emperor at the prospect of the better understanding which appeared now established between England and Russia, adding that he (M. de Bülow) felt confident that, if Her Majesty's Government succeeded in obtaining a prolongation of the armistice, a pacification must promptly be effected on the sound general basis ("bonnes bases générales") proposed by your Lordship. His Excellency's remarks led me to conclude that the German Government would shortly adhere to your Lordship's propositions for a pacification.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 383.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

My Lord, *Berlin, September 20, 1876.*

IN my despatch of the 18th instant I ventured to express the belief that the German Government would shortly adhere to the conditions proposed by your Lordship as the basis of peace.

I was, therefore, somewhat surprised to hear from M. de Bülow this morning that he had only the previous day been informed of the terms proposed by Count Andrassy, and that until these had been duly considered, the German Government declined giving their formal adherence to your Lordship's proposals.

I pointed out to his Excellency that as every day's delay at the present juncture was of serious consideration, I should, with his permission, call for an answer before the departure of the messenger on the 23rd.

His Excellency again referred to the necessity of effectually providing for the future of the Christian populations, and, if I mistake not, M. de Bülow is in favour of making larger concessions in the direction of autonomy. His last words to me on this occasion were, "some radical measures must be taken to rescue these poor people from their wretched condition."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 384.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

My Lord, *Berlin, September 23, 1876.*

IN accordance with the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram of the 21st instant, I informed M. de Bülow that the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires had stated to your Lordship that, having taken into consideration the formal declaration of Her Majesty's Government, as to the meaning attached to the proposal of granting local or administrative autonomy to Bosnia and the Herzegovine, the Austro-Hungarian Government had pronounced, in principle, its complete adhesion to the English proposals; but that the Imperial and Royal Government wished it to be formally recorded that the reforms asked for already from the Porte for Bosnia and the Herzegovine, and agreed to by the Turkish Government, shall form the basis of that local autonomy.

I added that in consequence of the communication made to your Lordship by the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, your Lordship had caused a paragraph in that sense to be inserted in the proposals which your Lordship has instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador to make to the Porte.

M. de Bülow said that before offering an opinion on the subject it was necessary that he should consult Prince Bismarck, the more so as the German Government had not yet given its assent to the English proposals. In order, therefore, to enable his Highness to express an opinion, his Excellency said he would wish to know if the Russian Government had been consulted, and had agreed to the insertion of the important paragraph suggested by Count Andrassy. He also expressed a desire to be informed if any, and what, steps had been taken by Her Majesty's Government for the presentation of the English proposals.

I stated to his Excellency that so far as I could judge from the correspondence which had passed through my hands, the Russian Government appeared to me not only cognizant of the modification suggested by Count Andrassy, but to have adhered to it, since your Lordship, in anticipation of a similar adherence on the part of the German Government, had instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to state to the Porte that they considered the Turkish proposals inadmissible, and to lay before the Porte the provisions which appeared to your Lordship proper to form the basis of peace; and I pointed out to his Excellency that your Lordship had further instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador to state to the Turkish Government that you entertained little doubt that the proposals in question will command general support.

I therefore ventured to express the belief that it was with the consent of all the Powers—except Germany, which I trusted would be no longer delayed—that your Lordship had taken the first step towards the negotiation of peace.

His Excellency said that under the circumstances he would at once telegraph to

Prince Bismarck, and that probably his Highness' answer would be shortly communicated to your Lordship through the German Chargé d'Affaires in London.

I again urged upon his Excellency that an early answer was of serious importance, as time was of the utmost consequence. I ventured to remark that if any unforeseen difficulty were to arise at so critical a moment, it was undesirable that it should be attributed to the German Government, who on every occasion had constantly manifested the wish that the Powers, especially England and Russia, should act unanimously in the work of pacification.

His Excellency replied that certainly both the Emperor and his Government had been prompted by no other desire in the treatment of this question, but that it must not be lost sight of that the welfare of a large population was at stake, and that whilst he hoped the German Government would offer no obstacle to the basis proposed by your Lordship, he thought the meaning of the word "autonomy" would, when the time arrived, have to be further and more fully discussed.

The several conversations which I have had with M. de Bülow, have left the impression on my mind that the German Government are of opinion that greater concessions and guarantees must be secured for the Christian population of Turkey than those which they believe your Lordship's proposals provide.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 385.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 25.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 17, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Jonesco has just been to see me, to communicate a telegram which he had to-day received from the Roumanian Agent at Constantinople, to the effect that the Porte complains that too great facilities are accorded by this Government to the passage of Russian volunteers to the seat of war, and that the communications of the Porte would be forwarded *in extenso* as soon as possible.

I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Jonesco had informed me that, under the circumstances of the arrival of the volunteers, every vigilance was being observed, and that no action could be taken as long as they passed with passports in order and without outward organisation.

The Minister seemed extremely uneasy and uncertain as to the course to be pursued.

I ventured to recommend to M. Jonesco that as soon as the original communication was received an immediate answer should be transmitted to the Porte.

That the answer must avoid an irritating as well as an irritated tone; that a detailed statement of the case should be drawn up in language at once firm and respectful, submitting to the Porte that the line of conduct pursued by this Government was the only one open under existing circumstances, and that undoubtedly any European State loyal to its professions of neutrality could not have acted otherwise.

M. Jonesco coincided with my view of the matter, and an answer conceived in such a sense and tone will be forwarded to Constantinople.

I should add that, since the rumours of peace are gaining ground, the number of Russian volunteers is visibly on the decrease, and I have to-day telegraphed to Sir Henry Elliot that such is the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 386.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 25.)

My Lord, *Vienna, September* 21, 1867.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 9th instant, expressing a hope that the Austrian Government would acquiesce in the basis for negotiating peace, which you had proposed in a telegram to Sir Henry Elliot of the 11th instant, subject to the explanations which you had subsequently given as to the meaning you intended to

convey by the words local autonomy in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, I drew up a Memorandum, of which I inclose a copy in the sense of your Lordship's telegram, and read it to Count Andrassy at an interview which I had yesterday with his Excellency.

He stated, in reply, that he could never have consented to negotiate a peace on the basis of granting local autonomy, as that word is generally understood, to the insurgent Provinces of Turkey or to Bulgaria; but he had no objection to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, as they have now been explained to him; but, as they might excite hopes which cannot be realized, he said that any proposals made to the Porte should be formulated in a manner to leave no doubt as to the nature of the institutions, which, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion, should be granted to the Provinces. He said, also, that it appeared to him, unless some reference were made to the reforms which the insurgents in the Herzegovina had already accepted in principle, and which M. Wesselitsky, a native of the Province, had declared to be all that was required or could be practically carried out, the insurgents would naturally believe that the privileges then offered to them, were looked upon by the Powers as insufficient, and hopes would be raised of their obtaining independent rights which they could not exercise with advantage to themselves, or without inconvenience, if not serious embarrassment to Austria-Hungary.

He foresaw also that the question of autonomy would give rise to a proposal for replacing the Turkish troops by a local militia, a measure to which the Porte was not likely to assent, but which, if adopted, would be attended with disastrous consequences.

He said he had, however, fully explained his views in a despatch to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, which must have reached London Tuesday night, and he read to me large extracts from this document, which it is unnecessary for me to recite, as your Lordship must be already acquainted with its contents. It appeared to me to embrace details which it would be premature at present to discuss, and which his Excellency might bring forward afterwards, if he accepts the basis which your Lordship has proposed for the negotiations, which he seemed willing to do, as he disclaimed any wish to take the initiative in the question, if precautions are taken against the risks to which he has alluded. As he, however, gave only a qualified assent to that basis, I thought it expedient to draw up, before leaving him, my telegram of yesterday, in which I reported our conversation, and, on my reading it to him, he said it conveyed correctly the substance of his observations; but that he would also send himself a telegraphic answer to your Lordship, through the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires.

At his Excellency's request I left with him the Memorandum, which I had read to him, of your Lordship's instructions to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 386.

Substance of Telegrams from the Earl of Derby.

HER Majesty's Government having proposed, in a telegram to Sir H. Elliot, on the 11th instant, as a basis for the negotiation of peace, viz., the *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro; administrative reforms in the nature of local autonomy for Bosnia and the Herzegovina; guarantees of a similar kind, the exact details of which might be reserved for further discussion, against the future maladministration of Bulgaria; and having subsequently explained that they intended nothing more by the words "local autonomy in Bosnia and the Herzegovina" than institutions by which the population should have some voice in their local affairs and protection against arbitrary acts; and Her Majesty's Government having learnt that the Russian Government have acquiesced in this basis, and will be ready to act simultaneously with them, as soon as they shall have sent formal instructions on this subject to Constantinople; and having also been informed that the Governments of France, Germany, and Italy have approved of it, they earnestly hope that the Government of Austria-Hungary will likewise do so; and as they are only waiting for an answer from Count Andrassy to make a formal proposal to the Porte, they trust that his Excellency will be able to give one immediately, as time is of the utmost consequence.

No. 387.

M. Gennadius to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

My Lord, *Legation of Greece, London, September 23, 1876.*

TO the communication I had the honour of making to your Lordship on the 19th instant,* I beg to add that by a more recent despatch received to-day, his Excellency M. Contostavlos informs me that within the last few days another body of Circassian colonists, composed of sixty persons in all, landed at Volo and thence proceeded to a short distance in the interior of Thessaly.

A few minutes ago I received from M. Contostavlos a further telegraphic despatch, dated to-day, and stating that His Majesty's Consul at Volo again reports fresh arrivals of Circassians in those localities.

From this information, as well as from the facts I have already had the honour of laying before your Lordship, it becomes manifest, I think, that, contrary to the assurance given—as your Lordship did me the the honour to inform me on the 4th of August—by the Grand Vizier to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in violation of solemn promises repeated by Safvet Pasha to M. Coundouriotis, and by Photiadis Bey to M. Contostavlos, and in spite of the general disavowal of any such intention on the part of the Sublime Porte publicly made, the Circassian colonization of Epirus, Thessaly, and Macedonia is prosecuted in a quiet but systematic and none the less effectual manner.

I shall not trouble your Lordship with a repetition of the considerations which, as set forth in M. Contostavlos' note of the 25th July / 6th August render it incumbent upon His Majesty's Government to protest most energetically against this measure. But I entreat your Lordship to take into consideration the very difficult position in which the Hellenic Government must eventually be placed by the inevitable consequences of this immigration, and to decide whether, in the face of the fearful revelations as to the habits and character of these Circassians, it can be permitted that a Christian people and peaceable European provinces be thus made over to an alien and armed race, whose natural and only pursuit consists in brigandage, rapine, and murder.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

No. 388.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 25, 1876.*

MR. MONSON has telegraphed that M. Durando, the Italian Agent, is anxious that Her Majesty's Government should authorize him to visit Prince Nicholas, who has given him to understand that he would be gratified by his presence. Signor Durando is said to be strongly of opinion that it would assist to counteract influences hostile to peace; especially if he were authorized by Her Majesty's Government to say that they are interested in procuring such reasonable conditions for Montenegro as will assure a solid peace.

I venture to recommend this proposal to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, as I agree as to the good effect that might be produced by Mr. Monson's presence in Montenegro.

No. 389.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 25, 1876, 6 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to Midhat Pasha and the Minister for Foreign Affairs conditions of peace proposed in your telegram of 21st, giving them to understand they were the best to which Her Majesty's Government could hope to obtain the assent of the Powers, and that if they were rejected by the Porte war would probably arise with Russia, while Great Britain would be obliged to abandon Turkey to her fate. After a long discussion I left them under the impression that they would finally accept conditions; but they asked me whether or not they were to understand that the whole of the condi-

* This referred to the naturalization question pending between Greece and Turkey.

tions put forward by the Porte were rejected. They also said that the prestige and authority of the Porte in all parts of the Empire would be impaired by the signature of a Protocol promising the reforms, and they asked me whether it would not be sufficient that the promise should be made in identic notes to the foreign Representatives. I said that I would refer these two questions to your Lordship, and I hope for an early answer.

No. 390.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 25, 1876, 6·20 P.M.*

IN my conversation with the Turkish Ministers to-day they continued to object to armistice, but said they were ready to withdraw their troops on peace being agreed to. I then proposed that they should declare their readiness at once to sign preliminaries of peace on the basis of conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government, and to withdraw troops upon these being signed, leaving other details for discussion on the definitive peace. To this they seemed inclined to consent, but the Grand Vizier and their colleagues must be consulted. I said that the Protocol about the insurgent provinces must be signed at the same time as the preliminaries, to which much objection was made. If it was not for this difficulty I think we could safely calculate on the acceptation of the conditions.

It is considered that there is nothing in what is asked by Her Majesty's Government that might not be granted to provinces generally, with the exception of some things previously promised which have special reference to the civil war. There is much irritation among Mussulmans here at the suspicion that the Ministers are about to consent to dishonourable terms, and threatening notices against them have been fixed to some mosques. The Christians also are uneasy, and fear a popular movement against themselves.

No. 391.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, September 14, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th June last, inclosing copy of a despatch addressed to Sir H. Elliot, suggesting a total change in the administration of this province,* I now inclose copy of a despatch on this subject of the 13th instant, addressed

* *Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Extract.) *Bosna-Seraï, June 26, 1876.*

Having studied the question for many years, I am of opinion that the Porte must entirely change its system of administration in Bosnia, and that without any needless delay.

Neither Turks nor Christians possess the instruction necessary to self-government, and I would, therefore, recommend that Bosnia and the Herzegovina be placed under a competent Governor, whose title should be something like that of Viceroy, who should be chosen with the consent of the European Powers, and whose tenure of office should be guaranteed, *quamdiu se bene gesserit*, for at least six years.

He should be solely responsible for all that takes place.

He should have the nomination of all the sub-Governors and officials throughout the country, and, for obvious reasons, the military force at his disposal should be chiefly Asiatic or Roumanian, instead of the native Bosnian regiments, who should not be employed in their own country.

I would also insist on the Christians being required to serve in the regular army; at first, perhaps, in a moderate proportion, to avoid the alarm it might occasion to the Mussulman population, but sufficient to remove the odious distinction now existing between the two creeds.

No persons of any denomination should be permitted to carry arms except when travelling.

The Viceroy should only be obliged to ask instructions from the Porte on matters of life and death.

The native Medjlisses should be entirely abolished, and their functions performed by single individuals, named by, and responsible to, the Viceroy. In this way the more honest and intelligent Bosnians could be most usefully employed, and, being freed from the influence of the ignorant and corrupt, would do good service. The Bosniacs are easily controlled, and have a wholesome fear of, and respect for, legitimate authority, which they would obey when it was found that they had no longer the power to oppose it. My proposition looks like a return to despotism, and in fact it is so; but I am convinced that a paternal despotism is at present the only possible Government for this benighted and divided people. Until now, as I have shown, the experiment of having the administrative power almost entirely in the hands of the native Sclav Mussulmans has been tried for five centuries, and has miserably failed, and will fail again if attempted. There has been no party distinctly responsible for the conduct of affairs. The Governor evades it, and the Medjlisses evade it, each endeavouring to fix it on the other; and the latter have always managed to make everything subservient to their own narrow ideas of self-interest. The

to his Excellency, showing how my proposition, if thoroughly and properly carried out, must necessarily cause a great improvement in the condition of the Christian population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 391.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Bosna-Seraï, September* 13, 1876.

AT the commencement of the insurrection, the clearly expressed desire of the insurgents of the Herzegovine was simply to remain subjects of the Sultan, but to obtain justice, and the proper execution of the existing laws; they asked for nothing more, and what they have since demanded, has been what has been asked for them by their foreign leaders and sympathizers, without much regard as to whether what is claimed is appropriate or not, to the situation of the postulants, or even practicable in execution.

I do not think it at all difficult to show that the radical change in the system of Administration, which I have advocated, will affect most happily and advantageously the condition of the Rayahs of Bosnia.

First, I would remark, that it cannot reasonably be supposed that an intelligent Mussulman, such as I contemplate as being the Governor of Bosnia, could have any personal hatred or repugnance towards the Christians; and, even if he had, he could not afford to show it. His first and highest personal interest, from every point of view, would be that his Government should be successful; that the Province confided to him should prosper; and that he should be well spoken of by the Agents of the European Powers. Now this could not possibly be the case unless the Christian population were well treated and content with his rule.

I do not hesitate to declare that the Mussulmans of Bosnia do not, as a rule, hate and maltreat the Christians; and that most of the cases of Christian oppression arises from faults of the present Administration, which leaves power in the hands of ignorant and irresponsible people; and, instead of offering any inducement to them to act justly and conscientiously, it almost necessitates arbitrary, oppressive, and corrupt conduct to all in authority, as a means of living and preserving their positions. Both Mussulmans and Christians suffer from this state of affairs; though the Christians, of course, for obvious reasons, suffer most.

My proposal has the effect of entirely changing the motives actuating those who are responsible for the condition of affairs. It deprives the ignorant and fanatic of all participation in affairs, by the abolition of the Medjlisses (Provincial Councils). It fixes the responsibility entirely on the chief of the Administration, who would select his own subordinates. It naturally and inevitably makes it the interest of the authorities to govern well, and to promote content and prosperity, and it gives them the power to do so.

result of this system of government has been the permanent discontent of almost the whole population, Mussulman and Christian.

A Viceroy certain of his position would take an interest and pride in the welfare of the country. He would have no need to perpetrate injustice for the sake of personal gain, and would, indeed, find it difficult to do so, as, having no ready-made accomplices, all questionable acts would be quickly noted, and he would find at least a large section of the public prompt to protest against them. The reports of the Consuls of the Great Powers as to his conduct should have weight, and meet with proper attention, and he would then feel the responsibility of his situation in a manner which could not fail to influence his conduct in a favourable manner. There are, no doubt, objections to the exercise of such power by a single individual, but it is impossible that his rule should not be more beneficial and successful than that of a number of ignorant, fanatic, and corrupt native Turks, who are totally irresponsible, who have not an idea of justice and progress, and who do not even understand the necessity of it.

I need not attempt to point out in detail all that must be done to regenerate these countries. This will, doubtless, soon be evident to the Governor or Viceroy, who should, of course, be selected for well-known liberality of sentiment and proved administrative capacity—such an one, for example, as Midhat Pasha. His attention, however, should immediately be directed to the education of all classes of the population; not an education by priests and Mollahs, such as the Turks receive, almost entirely consisting in recitations from the Koran, but a liberal teaching, which will prepare the people to take a large part in their own government, which could be accorded when the present generation was replaced by a more enlightened one.

It may reasonably be expected, also, that the Viceroy, whose interest and duty would evidently be to change entirely the ancient state of affairs, would, in the meantime, accustom the Mussulmans to understand that they are only one section of the Sultan's subjects, entitled to no more than equal justice with all others, and that the oppression of half the population is not calculated to secure general prosperity and happiness. It would be unreasonable to expect that a state of affairs which has obtained for nearly 500 years can be changed immediately, but what I have proposed seems to me the only chance of making a beginning in the right direction. The people must be considered as children at school who will not learn, but who must be made to do so, and to teach whom an exhibition of justice and firmness, with severity towards the bad and encouragement for the good, is all that is required.

Bosnia is an agricultural country, and the cultivators of the soil are principally the Christians, though the owners are Mussulman. The country cannot possibly prosper while these cultivators are discontented, nor can the Mussulman proprietors thrive. Therefore it is indispensable for a Governor whose interest is to succeed, to give particular attention to the condition and good treatment of the Christians, and, consequently, it cannot be imagined that he would neglect them. My proposal, therefore, if adopted, and if it succeeded at all, would infallibly necessitate a very great improvement in the condition of the Rayahs.

Would the Christian population be much better off under more extended powers to their own community? I think not; for they have always complained that they suffer as much, if not more, from their own priests and elders than from the Turkish Government; and my own knowledge of the injustice and oppression exercised towards them, in cases where there is no question of Turkish interference, gives ample confirmation of the truth of this complaint.

Bosnia is a country immensely rich in mineral produce, which, under the government of an intelligent man, naturally anxious to make the most of its sources, would immediately be made available, and offer a splendid field of fresh and profitable employment for the Christians as well as Mussulmans. That this wealth has never yet been turned to account is simply owing to the jealousy and corruption prevailing among the officials at Constantinople, none of whom are personally interested in its development. All, however, are greedy to profit personally by projects for exploiting it, and the exorbitant demands of every one who has the power to advance or to impede them, causes all proposals to be abandoned.

In short, it follows that a Governor personally interested in the welfare of this Province must necessarily improve the condition of the Rayahs as a primary condition of his own success.

No. 392.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 26.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, September* 15, 1876.

VELY PASHA reports from Svornik, on the 13th instant, that, the Servians having constructed about forty redoubts of more or less importance near Little Svornik, from which they incessantly annoyed the Turks with their cannon, on the 12th he sent Ismet Pasha with two and a-half battalions and some irregulars to attack their right, and Akif Bey with three battalions and also some irregulars to attack their left. The enemy was driven from his fortifications and pursued an hour's distance beyond the frontier, losing a piece of mountain artillery and a quantity of ammunition and small arms. Vely Pasha states his own loss at twenty killed and forty wounded, and as being very small in proportion to that of the Servians.

Mouktar Pasha is still, as far as I am informed, at Taslop in the district of Grahovo.

There is a report of a recent victory obtained by the Montenegrins over Dervish Pasha near Podgoritza, but nothing regarding the affair is known here.

The report of the evacuation or occupation of Alexinatz has not yet been announced to the authorites here, and I imagine it to be premature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 393.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 26.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September* 16, 1876.

WITH reference to the Bulgarian estimate of the non-Turkish and Turkish population of Bulgaria and the adjacent territory, mentioned in my despatch of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Sermed Effendi considers the population of Bulgaria to consist of nearly 1,500,000 of Turks, 200,000 Mahommedan gypsies, 200,000 Mahommedan Bulgarians (Pomaks, Staks), 100,000 Cossacks, 300,000 Circassians (*i. e.*, 75,000 families), 250,000 Greeks, and about 3,000,000 only of Bulgarian Christians, and perhaps another million of the latter in the adjacent territory. It will be noticed that this gives 1,000,000 less than the Bulgarian estimate to the non-Turkish

population, and also takes away from that estimate another million as being Mussulmans, Greeks, and others, but not Christian Bulgarians.

The difference is large and important, and tends to show how difficult it is to obtain, in respect of Turkish Christian provinces, accurate knowledge on which to base political judgment or action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 394.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 16, 1876.*

OF the noteworthy articles in the "Pester-Lloyd," one appeared yesterday in criticism of Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet, and declares that the latter leaves unanswered every practical question of politics, and that the agitation in England ignores such facts as "that the Bulgarians and Greek races are separated by a profound religious and national hatred; that there the Church conflict, which aroused in its worst form every religious passion, would have had sanguinary results but for the authority of the Porte; that it is not believed that a self-government can be found which shall satisfy the interests of the Mosque, the Bulgarian Church, the Greek Church, and the Holy Synod at St. Petersburg; and that all religious questions become political ones of grave importance in an Oriental country."

The article concludes by saying that "even if the autonomy project were more practicable than it is, it must fall through in consequence of the opposition of Austria-Hungary. We do not wish this solution, because it is incompatible with our interests; it promises no permanency; it is merely the first step towards the entire dissolution of Turkey, and it would only perpetuate the confusion and insecurity at our frontiers. The Conservative policy must be carried out, not because it is the better, but because it is the only possible one; and it will, according to all probability, be carried out with England, just as it would be in spite of England, if needs were."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 395.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 26.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 17, 1876.*

I AM told that the Austrian Consul, M. Dragovanovics, has reported that in the Catholic districts of Bosnia, visited by the band of Despotovics, not a single Catholic joined the insurgents; and it would seem that on many occasions the Greek Bosnians preferred the protection of the Turkish fort to fellowship with their insurgent brethren.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 396.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 26.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 18, 1876.*

INFORMATION having been received here that in Bulgaria local self-government on a broad basis, coupled with the complete independence of the Bulgarian Church in majority districts, had been announced by the Vali Assim Pasha, I asked Sermed Effendi whether such announced reforms as the abolition of personal services and taxes in kind, and also the grant to the communities of control over the Tchorbadschijo, the police, the Justices of the Peace, the schools, the mode of raising the taxes, &c., would not so satisfy the Bulgarians as to prevent any further danger of an insurrection; but he replied that "no reforms or concessions would be of any use; Russia would still conspire, and

unless Europe took up a firm attitude of impartiality, would continually sow discontent for her own political objects."

On the other hand, I gather from Hungarians acquainted with Bulgaria and the Provincial Government of the Porte, that the efficacy of the announced reforms will depend upon the attitude of the Pasha for the time being.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 397.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 26.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 18, 1876.*

A FEW weeks ago Sermed Effendi told me that the flying columns of Servian militia had, at the beginning of the war, laid waste nearly a hundred villages in the Vilayets of Widdin and Nisch, and that, if the Turkish forces destroyed villages in Servia, it would be by way of reprisals.

It now appears, according to the results of a Turkish inquiry, that the Servians then destroyed no fewer than eighty-two villages, and, as my Turkish colleague assures me, massacred the Turkish population found in them, and also any Bulgarians who would not join their columns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 398.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 26.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 18, 1876.*

ACCORDING to a report upon their distribution in the various districts it appears that the number of Bosnian fugitives is now over 51,000 in the military frontier, and over 10,000 in Croatia proper, making a total of 61,000 on Hungarian territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 399.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(Extract.) *Ragusa, September 18, 1876.*

WITH reference to the policy of concessions to Montenegro, I have the honour to state that, in my humble opinion, all those who, like Mr. Consul Holmes, recommended such a policy, and who even now press its adoption on the Porte, had, and have, a far clearer perception of what is expedient in the interest of Turkey than those who persist in advising the opposite treatment.

It would, perhaps, be enough to remark that that opposite treatment had never succeeded, to justify at least a consideration of a different policy; but I cannot believe that any one who fairly studied the question would arrive at any other conclusion than that it is only consonant with common sense and common experience that a province, situated as is Montenegro, should be a source of continued danger and difficulty to the conterminous States; and that a very practical relief would be afforded by its agglomeration with those cognate hill tribes, the nominal subjects of its neighbours, through whom the restlessness of its own population reacts upon the tranquillity of Dalmatia, Albania, and the Herzegovina.

Feeling this very strongly, I cannot but deplore that the Government at Vienna should so persistently have clung to the contrary theory; and should not have employed its influence at Constantinople in recommending, at an earlier date, the concessions which, on the eve of the war with Montenegro, and too late to prevent its outbreak, the Porte consented vaguely to promise. I am of opinion that it would be very much to the interests of all parties if the accretions of Montenegro were made not from Turkish territory alone, but also from that unmanageable corner

of Dalmatia which has lately been furnishing, in the persons of the Bocchese and the Krivoscians, reinforcements first to the insurgents, and subsequently to the Montenegrins.

In advocating so considerable a satisfaction to the latter, I am not actuated by any of that enthusiasm for their virtues and for their capacity for self-government which inspires Russian officials and sympathising journalists. I cannot discover in them the chivalry and humanity which their foreign friends have so continually lauded. I am, on the contrary, far more inclined to regard the very existence of the Principality under its present conditions as a calamity for Austria and Turkey, and a permanent danger to the peace of Europe. But such augmentations of its territorial extent as are hinted at above would not be sufficient to convert a petty Province into a powerful State; while their concession would have the effect of ridding both Austria and Turkey of an unruly and turbulent, as well as an unproductive, element in their respective populations.

No. 400.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 26.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 20, 1876.

I HAVE early this morning transmitted to your Lordship a telegram as follows:—"Special train with 300 Russian volunteers passed yesterday, arms scarcely concealed, disorders at railway stations, Roumanian Government much embarrassed. M. Bratiano asked my advice. I recommended prudence, and if possible to avoid collision." And now I shall have the honour to relate the details to your Lordship.

Last night I was spending the evening with M. Debains, my French colleague, when, about half-past ten, M. Bratiano, President of the Council of Ministers, was announced.

M. Bratiano told me that he had just been to my house, and expressed his pleasure in being able at the same time to consult both the French and English Agents on a matter of no small importance.

It appears that a special train, conveying 300 volunteers, arrived at the Roumanian frontier from Russia on the 18th instant. Many were in the possession of swords, and others did not conceal that they had revolvers in their pockets. One individual was spoken of as General Vasilieff, or some similar name, and others, although all in plain clothes, seemed to be recognized as officers. That there had been disorders at various stations, and notably that the train left Roman, where there had been a dispute with the stationmaster respecting the composition of the train, amidst the howls and hisses of the bystanders.

M. Bratiano was extremely anxious respecting the incident, and appeared to be inclined to telegraph to the frontier at Turno-Severin and stop the exit of the whole party from Roumanian territory.

After carefully examining every point, I indicated to M. Bratiano that, although, of course, the destination and object of the excursionists was, as it were, openly avowed, it was necessary to review the details calmly and on technical grounds, so as to give little cause for remonstrances on the part of the Russian Consul-General, should the matter arrive at that stage.

I pointed out that excursionists in all countries employ special trains, and that they even cross the frontiers of foreign countries; that excursionists are frequently under the direction of one or more individuals; that, although for the moment munitions of war cannot be imported, there is, according to the Roumanian regulations, nothing to prevent travellers being in possession of a pistol or a gun, while a sword is looked upon as part of a uniform, with which many persons are in the habit of travelling; that the baggage of these excursionists must have been examined at the frontier, and munitions of war would doubtless have been seized; that it would be competent to the Government to issue an immediate order to prohibit travellers from introducing any arms, but that to telegraph that very evening to have these gentlemen searched, and their arms, if found on their persons, taken from them, would be a retrospective act, and likely to cause inconvenience; that, according to his own showing, the Roumanian force at Turno-Severin consists of a couple of companies of the regular army, a battalion of militia, and the Custom-house officers, and that perhaps the officer commanding might be wanting in tact or judgment; that an attempt to prevent these volunteers leaving the frontier might cause a collision, in which the Roumanian force might be overpowered; that regrettable incidents and perhaps bloodshed must ensue.

The next result would be, that there would be renewed disorders at the passage of Russians through this country, and there would spring up mutual bad feeling between the volunteers and the Roumanians at the different towns and stations.

It was true that there had been disturbances at Roman, but at other stations there had been cheers for Roumania and the cause of the Eastern Christians.

To save appearances, it would be well if these volunteers could leave Severin in small detachments, and not in a collective body.

That I seriously deprecated any measures, which might lead to a collision and inevitable consequences of a deplorable character, adding, that it appeared to me most desirable at the present time, when the other Powers were anxious for the cordial co-operation of Russia in restoring peace, and also at a moment of delicate negotiations, to avoid any cause of irritation or even comment.

M. Bratiano urged that the Porte might possibly remonstrate, to which I answered that if the matter was properly laid before the latter, the representations of the Government of Prince Charles would doubtless be accepted in a dispassionate sense.

He then expressed apprehension lest the Guaranteeing Powers, and especially Her Majesty's Government, would be of opinion that this Government had not been consistent in its professions of neutrality.

M. Debains reassured him, as far as the Duc Decazes was concerned; and I replied that his (M. Bratiano's) evident anxiety on the subject, and the circumstance that he had come to consult M. Debains and myself, was no small earnest of the sincerity of the professions of the Roumanian Government, adding that I ventured to think that your Lordship would be disposed to make all just allowance for the position of extreme difficulty in which this Government is placed.

Before coming to see me M. Bratiano called at the Russian Agency, but Baron Stuart was absent, and the Vice-Consul in charge had expressed a hope that the volunteers would be allowed to continue unmolested, and tried to explain that they differed in no other way from the other volunteers, except in respect of the special train.

M. Bratiano had also seen Count Alvensleben, the German Consul-General, but could get no expression of opinion from him.

The Minister also informed me that on the passports of the Russian volunteers in general it is stated that they are Russians, who have ceased to belong to the Russian nationality, but that he did not know whether the last batch had similar passports.

I beg to direct your Lordship's attention to the circumstance that in ordinary times no Russian is allowed to change his nationality without immediately passing to another nationality, and having the whole transaction arranged with the greatest strictness; these volunteers would, therefore, appear to have no nationality, and the whole system is evidently conceived with a view to their disavowal by the Russian Government if convenient.

M. Bratiano left us at half-past 11, in order to telegraph to Severin that circumspection was to be observed on the arrival of the special train, which would be due at the latter place shortly after midnight.

M. Bratiano also spoke at great length on the embarrassment of this country; on its position between great and powerful States; its weakness; the maintenance of neutrality; and the conscientious discharge of their duties to the Suzerain Power; but I hesitate to take up more of your Lordship's time with these subjects.

It was not without some anxiety that I felt myself called upon to offer counsel on so delicate a subject as the above: and I trust that your Lordship will believe that, in the suggestions which I put before M. Bratiano, I have not spoken without the maturest reflection, and have been guided by the earnest wish to recommend what appeared to me to be most prudent under the circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 401.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.— (*Received September* 26.)

My Lord, *Rome, September* 23, 1876.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram, dated yesterday, 3·20 P.M., I communicated to-day to M. Melegari, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the instructions dated the 21st instant, which your Lordship had sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, desiring him to submit to the Porte the bases of pacification recommended by Her Majesty's Government.

His Excellency requested me to express to your Lordship his thanks for this communication, and to add that, as your Lordship was already aware, the Italian Government was of the same opinion as that of Her Majesty.

He had, he said, already instructed the Italian Minister at Constantinople to support the English proposals, and he repeated the opinion he had before expressed to me, that all the Mediating Powers either had done or would do the same.

With regard to Russia, his Excellency remarked that she had not only adhered to the proposals of the English Cabinet herself, but had urged upon the other Powers to follow her example.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 402.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 26.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 25 Septembre*, 1876.

LE Gouvernement Impérial a mis jusqu'à présent à la disposition de la Commission récemment envoyée en Bulgarie la somme de 18,000 livres Turques pour pourvoir aux besoins pressants des victimes de l'insurrection. En outre, des mesures sont prises pour la prompte reconstruction des villages incendiés. Indépendamment des secours que le Gouvernement accorde à cet effet, des bois de construction et d'autres matériaux sont procurés par les villageois voisins, tant Musulmans que Chrétiens. Enfin rien n'est négligé pour soulager les maux qu'avaient amenés les événements de la Bulgarie.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 25, 1876.

THE Imperial Government has up to the present time placed the sum of 18,000 Turkish pounds at the disposal of the Commission recently sent into Bulgaria, in order to meet the pressing wants of the victims of the insurrection.

Measures have been, moreover, taken for the prompt reconstruction of the villages which have been burnt.

Independently of the assistance which the Government grants for this object, wood for building and other materials are being provided by the neighbouring villagers, Mussulman as well as Christian; in a word, nothing is being left undone which can alleviate the misery brought about by the occurrences in Bulgaria.

No. 403.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 26, 1876.

YOU will have learned by telegraph from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that the Porte has consented to prolong the suspension of hostilities to the 2nd of October.

Her Majesty's Government cannot suppose that the Servian Government will be otherwise than glad to send similar instructions to their Commanders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 404.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 26, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government have received your Excellency's telegram of the 24th instant; and I have to convey to you their entire approval of your conduct in proposing conditions of peace to the Porte without further delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 405.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 26, 1876.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, in which you stated that you had learnt from Mr. Monson that the Prince of Montenegro had given the Italian Agent to understand that he would be gratified if Mr. Monson were sent to him, and you expressed your opinion that his presence would have a good effect in counteracting influences hostile to peace. I concur with you in thinking that Mr. Monson's presence at Cettigné might do good; and have consequently authorized you by telegraph to direct him to proceed there on a visit to the Prince.

His language—on his arrival—should be to the effect that Her Majesty's Government have proposed to the Porte that peace should be concluded on the basis of the *status quo* as regards Montenegro; and he will, of course, not fail to exert his influence to the utmost in favour of pacific counsels.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 406.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 26, 1876, 2 P.M.

SIR ARNOLD KEMBALL telegraphs as follows from head-quarters this morning:—

"A night affair of the usual kind took place last night near Trestle Bridge; it was commenced by Servians before 2 A.M., and maintained on both sides with fire of infantry and frequent shells till past 3 A.M."

No. 407.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 26, 1876.

I AM informed that the French Government have determined to urge upon the Porte the necessity of taking precautions to prevent the recurrence of further atrocities by disbanded troops.

Your Excellency has, I believe, already called attention to this matter, and I have to instruct you to give your support to any representation which may be made by the French Representative at Constantinople to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 408.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 26, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me in strict confidence a despatch from Prince Gortchakow, stating that the Russian Government wished to propose to those of England and of Austria that in the event of the Porte refusing the conditions of peace which had now been offered them, the following measures should be taken:—

1. The occupation of Bosnia by an Austrian force.
2. The occupation of Bulgaria by a Russian force.
3. The entrance of the united fleets of all nations into the Bosphorus.

Prince Gortchakow says that he believes the threat of taking these measures would be sufficient to accomplish these objects. It would force the Porte to accept the terms

* Substance telegraphed.

proposed to it; it would avert war (the Prince does not state what war), and it would ensure the better treatment ("assurer le sort") of the Eastern Christians.

In a second despatch the Russian Chancellor states that when Count Schouvaloff makes this confidential communication to me he is authorized to add that if, in my opinion, the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus would be preferable alone, and sufficient for the object in view, the Russian Government are ready to consent to this course, and will abstain from making the two other propositions mentioned above.

I said, in reply, that his Excellency could not of course expect an immediate answer to such a proposal. It was too grave a matter for me to pronounce an opinion on it offhand, and without consulting my colleagues. But several questions naturally arose as to the necessity or expediency of such a step as Prince Gortchakow suggested. I did not myself anticipate an absolute rejection of the terms of peace by the Porte. There might be negotiations and attempts to induce the Powers to change their view on some points, rather of detail than of principle, but such information as I had received did not lead me to anticipate a positive or categorical refusal.

I thought, moreover, that, in the actual state of men's minds, there was considerable danger in employing threats of material force. They could not fail to produce irritation at Constantinople, and might have the effect of inducing the Sultan and his advisers, who are now disposed to act with great prudence, to change their course and rush into war. Were such threats to become publicly known in Turkey, they would have the worst effect on the Mahommedan population, and might not improbably lead to outbreaks by which the Christian population would suffer.

The Russian Government should also consider the unfortunate impression that would be produced on the public mind throughout Europe. All the world were, at this moment, prepared for a peaceable solution. Menaces of the kind proposed by Prince Gortchakow would produce a general feeling of alarm and uneasiness, from which all interests would suffer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 409.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 26, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador communicated yesterday to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a telegram from his Government stating that, after receiving the explanations of the English Government, they had sent orders to their Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to act in concert with the other Representatives.

A telegram from Belgrade reports that the Servians object to further extension of suspension of hostilities.

No. 410.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 26, 1876, 11·50 P.M.*

THE word "autonomy" offers the chief difficulty to acceptance by the Porte of the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government. Porte would, I think, certainly agree to the system of control which your Lordship states that the expression is intended to convey.

Would it be sufficient if the Porte signified its acceptance of that system without making mention of local autonomy, which is viewed with dislike by everybody, and especially by the Greeks?

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 411.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 20, 1876.

IN continuation of my former despatch of the 9th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship some supplementary information furnished me by the Servian Government officially on the subject of Turkish excesses and atrocities in Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 411.

M. Ristitch to Consul-General White.

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, le* 14 *Septembre*, 1876.

J'AVAIS eu l'honneur de vous aviser par ma note du 25 Août dernier, que j'espérais prochainement être en mesure d'exposer le récit des actes de destruction et de cruauté commis par l'armée Turque à Kniajévatz pendant le court séjour qu'elle y a fait.

Je m'empresse de vous transmettre aujourd'hui en traduction le rapport que M. le Colonel Horvatovitch a adressé à ce sujet au Général Tchernaieff le jour de la réoccupation de Kniajévatz par ses troupes et compte sur votre obligéance pour vouloir bien le communiquer à votre haut Gouvernement.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) J. RISTITCH.

(Translation.)

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, September* 14, 1876.

I HAD the honour to inform you, in my note of the 25th of last August, that I hoped soon to be in a position to bring to your notice the account of the acts of destruction and cruelty committed by the Turkish army at Kniagévatz during the short stay it made there.

I hasten to inclose to you to-day, in translation, the report that Colonel Horvatovitch has addressed on this subject to General Tchernaieff, on the day of the re-occupation of Kniagévatz by his troops, and I count on your being so kind as to communicate it to your high Government.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) J. RISTITCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 411.

Colonel Horvatovitch to General Tchernayeff.

(Traduction.) *Kniajévatz, le* 22 *Août*, 1876.

A MA rentrée dans la ville de Kniajévatz j'ai l'honneur de vous informer ce qui suit.

Toute la ville est incendiée, c'est à peine si sur cinquante maisons il en reste une qui ait échappé aux flammes, et parmi celles qui sont restées debout on n'en trouverait une qui n'ait été saccagée de façon à avoir perdu la moitié au moins de sa valeur.

Tout Kniajévatz présente l'image la plus triste de ce que des mains vandales puissent accomplir. Des chéminées et des pans de murs noircis sont restés debout, mais toutes les maisons de faible construction ont été entièrement détruites.

L'ennemi ne s'est pas contenté de brûler l'église et l'iconostase, il a mis en morceaux les cloches dont des fragments ont été trouvés à l'extrémité de la ville, emporté l'horloge, tiré de coups de fusils dans la voûte et contre les saintes images. Plusieurs de ces dernières ont été retrouvées dans les rues déchirées et souillées d'ordures. Les drapeaux qui se trouvaient dans l'église gisent en pièces dans les rues. En un mot, ils ont profané le sanctuaire de Dieu d'une manière si affreuse qu'il est impossible de s'en faire une idée.

Tout ce que la main des hommes a pu détruire durant ces quelques jours a été détruit avec une énergie et une activité qui doit faire l'étonnement de tout le monde.

Des cadavres ont été jetés dans les puits et partout où il y avait de l'eau potable.

Tous les dix pas l'on rencontre les restes de quelque porc tué en décomposition et à moitié rongé par les vers et les mouches. Près de la poudrière on a retrouvé lié à un

arbre et brûlé le cadavre d'un de nos commandants de compagnie ou d'un aide-de-camp reconnaissable aux signes distinctifs de son grade qui sont restés intacts.

Dans la rue de Djonitch on a retrouvé un cadavre qui à ses vêtements on a reconnu pour celui d'un bourgeois de la ville. Il avait les jambes entièrement écorchées dès cuisses jusqu'aux pieds.

Dans le Café de Mita Yanochevitch on a trouvé le cadavre d'un homme reconnaissable de même à ses vêtements pour celui d'un habitant de la ville, avec un morceau de fer dans le corps. L'examen du cadavre percé en plusieurs endroits montre que les Turcs l'ont martyrisé et lui ont donné la mort au moyen de fer rouge.

Petko Vessélinovitch, de Kniajévatz, qui s'était cassé la jambe peu avant notre départ de Kniajévatz, était resté dans sa maison; on l'a retrouvé tué; Givko Kaïssia, également de Kniajévatz, a été martyrisé dans sa maison et tué avec un fer rougi. Dans la boulangerie d'Ivanka Constantinovitch on a retrouvé le cadavre d'un de nos soldats qui doit également avoir été martyrisé, car on a retrouvé près de son corps des broches de fer.

Outre les nombreux cadavres trouvés dans la ville il en a été retrouvé dans les champs de maïs, de sorte que je vais les faire traverser par une chaîne de tirailleurs qui enterreront les corps.

L'infection que répandent tous ces cadavres est telle que, dans la crainte d'une contagion, je n'ai pas osé faire arrêter mes troupes à Kniajévatz un seul instant. Ce que je viens d'exposer ne peut donner qu'une idée faible de la réalité; c'est ce que j'ai pu remarquer au premier coup d'œil.

J'ai pris des mesures pour que les bourgeois qui sont rentrés, aidés d'un bataillon, parcourent la ville et les environs sous la direction du comptable Milan Atjimovitch, qu'ils enterrent les cadavres et dressent un procès verbal qui me sera remis.

A en juger d'après la puanteur qui se répand jusqu'à une demi-lieue de la ville et aux myriades de mouches qui remplissent l'air dans les environs de Kniajévatz, il doit s'y trouver encore un grand nombre de cadavres humains, dont l'identité ne pourra être constatée.

L'état de décomposition des cadavres est déjà si avancé que, lors même que la tête y est attenante, on ne peut distinguer les traits.

Toutes les maisons des environs, et en particulier des maisonnettes construites dans les vignes, sont toutes brûlées, et comme ces maisons étaient pour la plupart entourées d'arbres fruitiers ou autres, le feu les a desséchées et la campagne des environs de Kniajévatz offre un aspect lamentable.

Du reste il ne m'est pas possible de donner une description fidèle de ce désolant tableau ; les mots me manquent pour le faire.

Je vous transmettrai immédiatement les renseignements qui me parviendront par la suite.

(Signé) Colonel HORVATOVITCH.

(Translation.)

(Translation.) *Kniajévatz, August* 22, 1876.

ON my return to the town of Kniagévatz, I have the honour to inform you of the following:—

The whole town is burnt, hardly one house in fifty has escaped the flames, and amongst those which are still standing, it would be difficult to find one that has not been sacked in such a way as to have lost at least the half of its value.

All Kniagévatz presents the most melancholy example of what vandal hands can do.. A few chimnies and some blackened walls are left standing, but all the lightly built houses have been completely destroyed.

The enemy was not content with burning the church and the cabinet containing the images of the saints, but has broken the bells in pieces, some of which have been found at the other end of the town, carried the clock away, fired shots through the roof and at the sacred pictures. Many of the latter have been found in the streets torn and soiled with filth. The flags which were in the church lie scattered in pieces in the streets. In a word, they have profaned God's sanctuary in a manner more horrible that it is possible to conceive.

Everything that the hand of man could destroy during those few days has been destroyed with an energy and activity which must astonish everyone.

Bodies have been thrown into the wells, and wherever there was drinking water.

Every ten steps one comes across the remains of a dead pig in a state of decomposition, and half consumed by worms and flies. Close to the magazine the burnt body of

one of our captains, or of an aide-de-camp, known by the distinctive marks of his rank, which had remained intact, was discovered tied to a tree.

In the street of Djonitch a body was found, recognized by his clothes as that of a citizen of the town. His legs were entirely flayed from the thighs to the feet.

The body of a man, in like manner recognizable from his clothes as an inhabitant of the town, was found with a piece of iron in his body in the Café of Mita Yanochevitch. An examination of the body, pierced in many places, shows that the Turks had tortured him, and killed him with a red-hot iron.

Petko Vesselinovitch, of Kniagévatz, whose leg was broken a little before we left Kniagévatz, had remained at home. We found him killed. Govko Kaissia, also of Kniagévatz, was tortured and killed in his house by a red-hot iron. In the bakery of Ivrenka Constantivovitch, was found the body of one of our soldiers, who must also have been tortured, for some iron spits were found near the corpse.

In addition to the numerous bodies found in the town, some have been found in the maize fields: I am going, therefore, to have these traversed by skirmishers, who will bury the bodies.

The smell of all these corpses is so great that, from fear of disease, I have not ventured to let my troops halt for a moment at Kniagévatz. What I have just related can only give you a faint idea of the reality. It is what I noticed at the first glance.

I have taken measures that the citizens who have returned shall, with the help of a battalion, search through the town and neighbourhood, under the direction of a trustworthy person, Milan Atjimdvitch, bury the bodies, and draw up a procès-verbal, which will be sent to me.

To judge from the stench, which has spread as far as half a league from the town, and the myriads of flies which fill the air in the neighbourhood of Kniagévatz, there must still remain there a great number of human bodies, the identity of which cannot be determined.

The state of decomposition of the bodies is already so advanced, that even when the head remains it is impossible to distinguish the features.

All the houses in the neighbourhood, and especially the little houses built in the vineyards, have been burnt, and as these houses were generally surrounded by fruit trees, or other kinds of trees, the flames have scorched them, and the surrounding country presents a most wretched appearance.

In short, I am unable to give a true description of this afflicting sight; I can find no words to describe it.

I will forward to you immediately the further information which may hereafter reach me.

(Signed) HORVATOVITCH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 411.

List of Villages in Servia burned by the Turkish Army since the time it crossed the Servian Frontier.

1. *District of Bulgarian Morava.*

SOUPOVATZ, Veliki, Drenovatz, Gréiatch, Daschintza, Goleschnitza, Koprionitza, Lotjika, Voutjénovatz, Tchesta, Tchoukarovatz, Chouritjé, Mali Drénovatz, Téchitza, Loujanié, Nozrina, Bouïmir, Stoublina, Mrsol, Koulina, Gitkovatz, Prtjilovitza, Dolnji Adrovatz, Gorngi Adrovatz, Dolnja Souotnia, Gornja Souotnia, Kaménitza, Loznatz, Yakovlié, Krouchié, Grédétiu, Rodevatz, Peschtanitza, Trniavé, Korman, Gornji Lioubesch, et puis Srézovatz.

2. *District of Alexinatz and Ratchan.*

Katoun, Dobroniévatz, Stantzi, Ligovatz, Prougovatz, Bouimir, et trois maisons à Bobovischte.

3. *District of Bania.*

Laboukovo, Goïmanovatz, Radenkovatz, Rsovatz, et Prekonozi.

Inclosure 4 in No. 411.

General Tchernayeff to Prince Milan.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *Deligrad, September* 17, 1876, 10 P.M.

I RECEIVED the telegram of Your Highness that the Turkish army will make no aggressive movements unless we make an attack on them.

I immediately gave the orders to all the commanders to abstain from hostilities, and to remain on the defensive.

Meanwhile the Turks, having received a transport of ammunition which they were waiting for, this evening commenced an attack by a strong cannonade, and captured the village of Bobovitsché.

They also attempted to cross the Morava, but were repulsed with severe losses by Major Paterson, and, judging by these movements, I presume that they will soon make an attack in great numbers.

I have, nevertheless, given strict orders to all commanders to remain strictly on the defensive.

No. 412.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of two letters which I have received from the Servian Foreign Minister, with reference to alleged aggressive movements of the Turkish forces subsequently to the 16th of September, the day on which the cessation of hostilities was supposed to have commenced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 412.

M. Ristitch to Consul-General White.

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, le* 18 *Septembre,* 1876.

LES Représentants de plusieurs des Puissances Garantes m'ont fait savoir que la Sublime Porte avait transmis à tous ses Commandants de troupes l'ordre de s'abstenir de tout acte d'hostilité contre les troupes Serbes et nous ont engagé à suivre l'exemple de la Sublime Porte en donnant des ordres pareils à nos autorités militaires. Les ordres de la Porte à ses généraux auraient dû être expédiés de Constantinople le $\frac{3}{15}$ courant au soir ou le $\frac{4}{16}$ au matin.

A la suite de cette communication Son Altesse le Prince, en sa qualité de Commandant-en-chef de l'Armée Serbe, s'est empressé de donner aux Commandants des troupes des ordres de s'abstenir de tout mouvement agressif contre l'Armée Ottomane. J'ai le regret pourtant de vous transmettre, M. l'Agent, la copie du télégramme, que le Général Chernayeff a adressé de Deligrad hier 17 courant à 10 heures du soir à Son Altesse le Prince, pour lui informer que l'armée Turque n'avait pas abandonné ses mouvements offensifs jusqu'à hier au soir.

Néanmoins, malgré l'inefficacité d'une suspension d'armes aussi indéterminée, les ordres ont été renouvelés au Général de continuer à s'abstenir de toute agression si les Turcs de leur côté ne renouvelaient pas leurs attaques, en attendant qu'un armistice régulier remplace cette situation peu précise.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. RISTITCH.

(Translation.)

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, September* 18, 1876.

THE Representatives of several of the Powers have informed me that the Sublime Porte has sent orders to its officers in command of troops to avoid every act of hostility against the Servian troops, and they have invited us to follow the example of the Sublime Porte by giving similar orders to our military authorities.

The Porte's orders to its Generals were to have been despatched from Constantinople on the evening of the $\frac{3rd}{15th}$ instant, or the morning of the $\frac{4}{16}$th.

In consequence of this communication His Highness the Prince, in his quality of Commander-in-Chief of the Servian Army, hastened to give orders to the Commanders of the troops to abstain from all aggressions against the Ottoman army.

I regret, however, to transmit to you, M. l'Agent, a copy of the telegram which General Chernayeff addressed to His Highness the Prince, dated Deligrad, yesterday evening, 17th instant, at 10 P.M., informing him that up to yesterday evening the Turkish army had not abandoned its offensive attitude.

Nevertheless, in spite of the inefficacy of a suspension of arms so very undefined, orders have been again sent to the General to continue to avoid all aggression, if the Turks on their side do not renew their attacks, until a regular armistice shall be substituted for this ill-defined state of things.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) J. RISTITCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 412.

M. Ristitch to Consul-General White.

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, le 19 Septembre*, 1876.

POUR faire suite à ma note d'hier, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire savoir que, d'après une dépêche du Commandant des troupes Serbes à Yankova Klissoura, ces troupes ont eu aussi à repousser une attaque des Turcs dans la journée de Dimanche dernier.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. RISTITCH.

(Translation.)

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, September 19*, 1876.

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform you that, according to a despatch received from the Commander of the Servian forces at Yankova Klissoura, the latter had also to repel an attack of the Turks on Sunday last.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) J. RISTITCH.

No. 413.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 27.*)

My Lord, *Bucharest, September 21*, 1876.

IN reference to my despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that this Government has instructed the Roumanian Railway authorities to maintain the minimum of rolling stock compatible with the daily service of the line, at the Russian frontier station Ungeni, at Jassy, and at Roman, in order that it may be impossible for any considerable body of volunteers to obtain a special train, and carry out a warlike demonstration such as that which occurred on the 18th instant and the following day.

I am informed that the 300 Russian volunteers, on arriving with the special train at Turno Severin, at once acquiesced, without remonstrances, in the request to leave the Roumanian territory in small batches, and not in a collective body.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 414.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 27.*)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 26 Septembre*, 1876.

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence copie d'une dépêche télégraphique que je viens de recevoir de son Excellence Safvet Pacha relativement à une violation de la suspension d'armes du côté des Serbiens dans des conditions qui en relèvent la gravité.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *London, September* 26, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency, a copy of a telegram which I have just received from his Excellency Safvet Pasha, relative to a violation by the Servians of the suspension of hostilities under circumstances which greatly enhance the gravity of the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 414.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 25 Septembre*, 1876.

LE Généralissime Abdul Kerim Pacha nous télégraphie ce qui suit :—Dans la nuit de Vendredi dernier, l'armée Impériale a été attaquée par l'artillerie Serbe de la rive droite de la Morava. Après une demi heure de combat, le feu a cessé. Un Serbe qui a été fait prisonnier dans cette affaire a déposé que le Major du bataillon auquel il appartient avait ordonné à ses soldats de s'abstenir de tout acte d'hostilité, mais qu'un officier Russe d'un rang supérieur, d'accord avec les six ou sept autres officiers Russes qui servent dans le même bataillon, avait tiré quelques coups de revolver dans la direction de notre armée pour forcer la main aux Serbes, et que ces derniers n'avaient été entraînés à l'action que malgré eux et cédant à des menaces de mort. Ainsi, la suspension d'armes a été violée du côté des Serbes et cela dans des conditions qui en relèvent la gravité.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 25, 1876.

THE Commander-in-Chief Abdul Kerim Pasha telegraphs to us as follows:—

"On the night of Friday last, the Imperial Army was attacked by the Servian artillery from the right bank of the Morava. After a contest of half-an-hour the fire ceased. A Servian who was made prisoner in this affair has testified that the Major of the battalion to which he belonged, had ordered his men to abstain from all hostilities, but that a Russian officer of high rank, in concert with six or seven other Russian officers, doing duty in the same battalion, fired several shots from a revolver in the direction of our army, in order to compel the Servians to advance, and that the latter were dragged against their will into action, and yielded to threats of death. Thus the suspension of hostilities has been violated by the Servians under circumstances which enhance the gravity of the case."

No. 415.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 27.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 27 *Septembre*, 1876.

LES autorités militaires nous télégraphient ce qui suit :—

"Dans la nuit du 24 courant, vers 2 heures à la Turque, les Serbes ont fait leur apparition dans le village Musulman de Kerdja, sis vis-à-vis de Dogbolan, et ont détruit une grande quantité de blé et de paille. Une compagnie de cavalerie et environ trois compagnies d'infanterie Serbes franchissaient presque en même temps la ligne de démarcation pour attaquer le village de Pernitza.

Jeudi dernier un habitant notable de Sanitza Kianoms, Zékéria Agha, se vit soudainement assailli par une centaine de Serbes au moment où il se rendait dans l'endroit connu sous le nom de Souhi Herd. Le malheureux Zékéria Agha fut assassiné et dépouillé de ses armes, de ses objets de valeur, et de ses quatre bœufs.

Une bande de cinquante Serbes s'introduisit dans l'habitation d'un certain Lazar de Komar au Novi-Varoche. Les brigands en emportèrent soixante-dix têtes de moutons et onze têtes de bœufs. Une autre bande apparue du côté de Bakovie enleva, du 4 au 9 courant, une grande quantité d'objets de bétail et d'argent aux habitants des villages Chrétiens de Bosnie et de Youeyoe (?)

Les habitants Chrétiens des villages de Schtadeova, de Torodora, et de Jissovitza furent amenés de vive force en Serbie avec leurs effets et leur bétail.

Les Monténégrins, à leur tour, incendièrent, le 23 et 24 courant, six maisons, dont deux au Bas Kolachine, trois à Yorbek, et une au pont de Youschkerach; ils capturèrent aussi un enfant Musulman.

Les tentatives d'attaquer aussi le convoi de munitions et de provisions de bouche que les autorités militaires dirigeaient à Brana, par voie de Rogora, sont restées sans succès.

Ainsi les Serbes et les Montenégrins ne cessent de violer ouvertement la suspension d'armes.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 27, 1876.

THE military authorities telegraph to us as follows:—

"In the night of the 24th instant, about 2 o'clock, according to Turkish reckoning, the Servians suddenly appeared in the Mussulman village of Kerdja, situated opposite to Dogbolan, and destroyed a great quantity of corn and straw. A squadron of cavalry and about three companies of Servian infantry crossed the line of demarcation almost at the same time to attack the village of Pernitza.

Last Thursday Zékéria Agha, one of the prominent inhabitants of Canitza Kianoms, was suddenly attacked by about 100 Servians, when proceeding to a place called Souhi Herd. The unfortunate Zékéria Agha was murdered and robbed of his arms, his valuables, and four oxen.

A band of fifty Servians forced their way into the house of a certain Lazar of Komar, near Novi-Varoche. The brigands carried off seventy sheep and eleven oxen. Another band, which made its appearance in the neighbourhood of Bakovia, robbed the inhabitants of the Christian villages of Bosnia and Youeyoe (?), between the 4th and 9th instants, of much live stock and money.

The Christian inhabitants of the villages of Schtadeova, Torodora, and Jissovitza have been forcibly carried off into Servia, together with their property and live stock.

The Montenegrins, on their side, set fire, on the 23rd and 24th instants, to six houses, two of which were at Bas Kolachine, three at Yorbek, and one at the bridge of Youschkerach; they have carried off, moreover, a Mussulman child.

The attempts to attack a convoy of ammunition and provisions, which the military authorities were sending to Brana, by way of Rogora, were unsuccessful.

Thus the Servians and Montenegrins continue to violate openly the suspension of hostilities.

No. 416.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 27, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a letter which appeared in the "Times" newspaper of yesterday, alleging that a Turkish soldier has returned to the neighbourhood of Jerusalem, bringing with him a Bulgarian girl, whom he states to have been given him in lieu of pay.

Your Excellency should make immediate inquiries to ascertain the truth of this story, and bring the matter, if true, at once to the notice of the Porte, with a view to obtaining the restoration of the girl to her family and the punishment of those concerned in her abduction.

On the occasion of the disturbances which took place in Syria in 1860, Fuad Pasha, the Special Commissioner sent by the Porte to the spot, informed Lord Dufferin that he had denounced the penalty of death against every Moslem who should retain prisoner any Christian woman; and Lord Dufferin subsequently reported that all those who had been carried away were, with one exception, restored to their homes.*

Her Majesty's Government trust that the efforts of the Turkish authorities on the present occasion will not be less energetic or effective.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* Lord Dufferin (September 8 and October 8, 1860), "Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Syria," laid before Parliament, 1860–61, pp. 125, 165.

Inclosure in No. 416.

Extract from the "Times" of September 26, 1876.

To the Editor of the "Times."

Sir, *September 25, 1876.*

THE following extract from a letter, just received from the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, presents a new form of Turkish infamies (*ex uno disce*) :—

"The other day a disabled Turkish soldier of this neighbourhood returned from the war with a beautiful Bulgarian girl, who, he says, had been given to him instead of his wages. He has been offered 80*l.* for her redemption by a wealthy Christian, but he refuses to sell her for that price. How many Christian girls and women are thus being sold? Surely the civilized Governments of Europe, especially England, ought not to be indifferent to this new form of traffic in flesh and blood, accompanied as it is by brutal abuse and ill-treatment at the hands of their mendacious allies the Turks, who absolutely laugh, because they think that England is sure to protect them against Russia. Hence the contempt to which the English are exposed in this part of the Turkish dominions, not only from the Christians, but also by the Moslems, who fear Russia, but despise England."

I am, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS SMITH, *Chaplain.*

No. 417.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 27, 1876, 3·30 P.M.*

COUNT ANDRASSY having excused himself from seeing me to-day, I asked Baron Orczy to show him a memorandum of Sir H. Elliot's conversation with the Turkish Ministers, and Baron Orczy represented him to have been rather favourably impressed with the suggestion that the Porte should at once sign the preliminaries of peace and withdraw its troops from Servia. He declined, however, expressing an opinion on this point, or on the Porte's wishes to substitute notes for a Protocol until to-morrow, as he must first receive Count Zichy's report and consult the Emperor. He doubts the expediency of substituting notes for a Protocol, and with respect to the terms of Turkish conditions, he will urge the construction of a railway by Servia being included in the definitive peace. I have just received a letter from the Ministry, in which he requests me to send him a copy of the memorandum, which I have done.

No. 418.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 27, 1876, 3·30 P.M.*

ALTHOUGH the information is not strictly official, the following may be relied on as the decisions come to by the Porte after a Council:—

The creation of a general Elective Assembly;

Complete and strict application of the Vilayet system;

Extension of the powers of the Provincial Councils to sit during three months of the year, replaced during recess by a permanent mixed Christian and Mussulman Commission, to exercise a control over the acts of the Government and of the local authorities, and to watch application of the measures decided by the Representative Assembly of the capital;

General application of the measures contained in Count Andrassy's note;

Organization of municipalities and re-organization of police in the provinces.

These measures will apply to Bosnia, the Herzegovine, and Bulgaria, as well as to the rest of the Empire.

Porte will give its answer to-morrow to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, and express its willingness to sign preliminaries of peace upon above basis.

No difficulty seems likely to be raised about conditions asked by the Porte respecting Servia.

* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 419.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 27, 1876.

I HAVE instructed you by telegraph to lose no time in expressing to the Servian Government the surprise with which Her Majesty's Government has learned that Servia, having asked the Powers to mediate, has now thought fit to refuse its consent to a prolongation of the suspension of hostilities offered by Turkey.

She should remember that the Powers are endeavouring to obtain for her more favourable terms than the issue of the campaign has given her a right to expect.

You will, therefore, inform the Servian Government that any attempt on the part of the Servian Commanders to renew active operations will bring on them the responsibility of the consequences, and that they will thereby forfeit the support of England.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 420.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 27, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government have carefully considered the questions raised by the Porte as regards the terms proposed for a basis of peace; they fear, however, that as those terms have received the adhesion of all the Powers there would now be great difficulty in obtaining their modification.

Those of the conditions proposed by Turkey which might be more or less admissible—such as a reduction of the Servian army, the payment by Servia of a war indemnity, the construction of a railway in that Principality, and the destruction of the Servian fortresses—present difficulties of execution, and the risk of delay and objections during their consideration is so great that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government it would not be worth the while of the Porte to insist on their insertion in the conditions of peace.

Her Majesty's Government would not be prepared to abandon the form of a Protocol for the promise of reforms in the disturbed provinces, nor do they consider that the substitution of an identic note would satisfy public opinion in this country and abroad. On this point it would be well that your Excellency should remind the Porte that the Constitution of the Lebanon was embodied in the Protocol of the 9th of June, 1861.

The expression "autonomy" has been generally adopted by the Powers, and it would be hopeless to attempt to procure its abandonment. The qualifying explanations which have been introduced ought, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, to suffice for the satisfaction of the Sultan's advisers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 421.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 27, 1876, 6 P.M.

PROPOSALS of the Porte reported in my other telegram contained, I believe, the utmost that it will be possible to obtain, and they appear to give more ample control over the Administration than was suggested by Her Majesty's Government. Exceptional measures for insurgent provinces alone would be certainly fatal to tranquillity elsewhere, and it is indispensable that they should be general if insurrections are to be avoided. The great difficulty that I apprehend is connected with the proposed Protocol, which would nearly give Powers Treaty-rights of interference in the internal administration.

Austrian and Russian occupations cannot be carried out without almost certain prospect of rising against Christians, which the Government would be powerless to restrain, and the mere threat of such a measure would cause an irritation among Mussulmans of which the consequences cannot be foreseen.

No. 422.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 27, 1876.

PRINCE MILAN professes to entertain a desire for the conclusion of a regular armistice, but all that I see here leads me to think that an offer of complete restoration of peace, with the *status quo ante*, if promptly made, might yet be accepted here, or at all events might be favourably entertained by many Servians.

Many dangers of complications are presented by an armistice and the consequent negotiations.

Assistance from Russia has tendency to protract the contest during the winter, while advice given from that influential quarter excludes every other.

No. 423.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 27, 1876.

DURING a conversation which I had with the Russian Ambassador to-day, I thought it right to draw his serious attention to the inconvenience and danger attendant upon the ordinary influx of Russian volunteers into Servia. I said that I had been unwilling hitherto to address representations to his Government upon the subject, knowing the difficulties in which they were placed by the state of public opinion in Russia. The matter had, however, reached a stage which could not but occasion considerable apprehension. From some of the later telegrams we had heard of the arrival of as many as 300 Russian volunteers in a single day, and it seemed as if the larger proportion of the officers in the Servian army were now Russian. The first object of these volunteers was not likely to be an exclusive regard for the welfare of Servia; they had come down for the purpose of fighting the Turks; and whether the country suffered or not, was to them a matter of little concern, as compared with the continuation of the war. Each addition, therefore, tended to increase the strength of the war party in Servia; and if matters continued as they were now going on, it seemed not improbable that the Powers might have more difficulty in obtaining the acceptance of reasonable terms at Belgrade than at Constantinople.

Count Schouvaloff, in reply, made no attempt to deny the proportions which the movement had assumed. He promised to submit at once to his Government the objections that I had urged. But he stated that the difficulty of checking the emigration was very great, and that it would be difficult, in his belief, for the Emperor to take any decided step in that direction without an immense loss of popularity and influence. The state of public feeling in Russia, his Excellency said, was something to which the excitement felt here bore no comparison.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 424.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 28.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres,
My Lord, *le* 27 *Septembre*, 1876.

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence copie d'une dépêche télégraphique, que je viens de recevoir de son Excellence Safvet Pacha, relativement à une nouvelle violation de la suspension d'armes de la part des Serbes.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *London, September* 27, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency a copy of a telegram which I have just received from his Excellency Safvet Pasha, relative to a fresh violation of the suspension of hostilities by the Servians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 424.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 26 Septembre,* 1876.

LE Généralissime Abdul-Kérim Pacha vient de signaler à la Sublime Porte une nouvelle violation par les Serbes de la suspension d'armes. Voici comment les faits se sont passés :—

Hier, dans la nuit, vers huit heures à la Turque, les Serbes ont attaqué les positions de notre armée, d'abord du côté du pont, ensuite le long de la Morava, et le combat a duré une heure. Les Serbes ont donné le signal de leur mouvement en cherchant à faire sauter le pont qu'ils avaient miné à l'autre extrémité, et dont cependant ils n'ont pu détruire qu'une bien petite partie. Les Serbes continuent à tirer de temps à autre des coups de fusils, et même de canon, sans que l'armée Impériale y riposte.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 26, 1876.

THE Commander-in-chief, Abdul Kerim Pasha, has just reported to the Sublime Porte a fresh violation of the suspension of hostilities by the Servians. The following are the facts of the case :—

Yesterday, during the night, about 8 o'clock, according to Turkish reckoning, the Servians attacked the positions of our army, first of all in the direction of the bridge, then along the line of the Morava, and the engagement lasted for an hour. The Servians gave the signal for their movement by endeavouring to blow up the bridge, which they had mined at their end of it; they succeeded, however, in doing very little damage.

The Servians continue to fire occasionally rifle and even cannon shots, but the Imperial army does not return the fire.

No. 425.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 28, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador called on me on the 23rd instant, and read me two telegrams which he had received from his Government.

The first of these telegrams, dated the 22nd instant, stated that, yielding to the wishes of England, Count Andrassy had informed Sir A. Buchanan that the Cabinet of Vienna would be disposed to accept the proposals on condition that a clear understanding should be come to as to what is meant by autonomy, in order that there might be no departure from the limits that have been laid down. With this view the Cabinet of Vienna would wish the word "autonomy" to be left out, and instructions in this sense have been given.

But it seems that the idea of recording in a note the views held by Austria has not been abandoned by Count Andrassy.. The Italian Government have every confidence in the great influence which the Cabinet of London is able to bring to bear at Vienna and Livadia in regard to the measures which may be adopted in concert with Russia and Austria as to the extension to be given to the autonomy of the disturbed provinces of Turkey in Europe, but they think that it will not be possible to raise the question out of the vague state in which it now is, as long as the solution of it depends on the interpretation which may be given to a word so equivocal in its meaning. An Austrian note might have the effect of driving Russia to the wall if the views expressed therein did not agree with the views of Russia of the exigencies of the situation. The cause of peace would not gain anything from the fact that the divergent views of the Cabinets of Vienna and St. Petersburgh were strongly marked in diplomatic documents showing forth the self-esteem of Governments driven in opposite directions by the public opinion of their respective countries.

The Italian Government have suggested a plan which seems to them to answer all the exigencies of the situation. Could not an understanding be come to as to the necessity of securing to Bosnia, to Herzegovina, and to Bulgaria an internal form of government which will allow of the peaceful co-existence of Christians and Mussulmans after the manner of that which the Porte has accorded to the Cretans?

The details of the arrangement might be deferred to subsequent negotiations. There are agrarian questions to regulate; economical and financial interests to take into consideration; in fact, a whole series of questions to be studied which could not be done in a few days. But the first step would have to be taken as soon as the Powers recognize the fact that the same laws which suffice to render Asiatic populations happy, no longer answer the requirements of European Provinces which live in immediate and frequent contact with the most civilized nations.

Egypt has been able, with the assistance of European jurists, to make a Code of Laws applicable to Mussulmans as well as to Christians, and satisfying the necessities of reform. What has been possible for Egypt should be equally possible for the Turkish Provinces of Europe, in order to give the populations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to Bulgaria, good laws and good justice.

The Italian Government think that the political question can easily be adjourned.

They desire to press these views on Her Majesty's Government, and they consider that it is important to escape as soon as possible from a situation which continues to be very critical on all sides.

The telegram added that complaints are made that the suspension of arms is not observed.

The Servians pretend that the Turks profit by it to prepare themselves to take up the offensive with vigour.

The second telegram, which was dated the 23rd instant, stated that Baron de Launay having, in accordance with instructions to that effect, held to Count Bulow language similar to that detailed above, his Excellency had answered that he considered the observations of the Italian Government just, and their plan practicable, the more so that the latter accorded with what had been agreed upon at Ems.

M. Robilant had just heard from his English colleague that the Cabinet of Vienna agreed entirely to the proposition of Great Britain, explaining autonomy so as to exclude the rights of the Porte being reduced to simple suzerainty, and on condition that the reforms granted in February by the Sultan shall be maintained.

An understanding has thus been established between the Powers as to the general bases, and the Italian Government offer me their sincere congratulations on the result thus obtained.

The general impression, however, is that an understanding as to principles is not sufficient, and that we must expect grave difficulties when it comes to the settlement of the details of an arrangement.

Meanwhile it is announced from Constantinople that the question of the armistice will be examined into in the great Council to-morrow. In order therefore to weigh on the deliberations of the Porte, the Representatives agreed the same day to send on the following morning their First Secretaries to Safvet Pasha to renew the demand for a formal armistice, and one without fixed length of duration. The bases for pacification were to be communicated on the following day after the Council by the English Ambassador. The Representatives of Russia and Austria had instructions to support them.

As the English Chargé d'Affaires at Rome had not communicated to the Italian Government the text of the proposals to be submitted to the Porte, they regretted that they were unable to do more than give Count Corti general instructions. The Italian Government wished to call my attention to this fact, for although the conversations which had passed between me and General Menabrea had made them fully acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government it was desirable that in matters of this kind they should be informed of the exact terms of such official communications.

In reply I expressed myself generally in favour of the views expressed by the Italian Government as to the expediency of arriving at a more precise understanding of the exact signification to be attached to the words "local autonomy," and as to the restricted sense which they applied to that expression.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 426.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 28, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 11th instant. Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your Excellency's proceedings in persuading the Porte to accept

mediation, subject to a consideration of their proposals, and they fully appreciate the judicious manner in which you have acted under the difficult circumstances of the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 427.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 28, 1876

HER Majesty's Government approve the language which your Excellency held to your Austrian and German colleagues, with respect to the proposal for mediation, as reported in your despatch of the 9th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 428.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 28, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve your having objected to the Turkish proposals for peace, as reported in your Excellency's despatch of the 10th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 429.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 28, 1876.

MR. READE, Her Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk, has forwarded to me a copy of his despatch to your Excellency of the 15th instant, pointing out the discontent which is likely to be occasioned in Bulgaria by the recent appointment of Hakki Pasha as Governor-General of Widdin, in consequence of the partiality shown by him whilst President of the Commission which was established at Rustchuk for the trial of the insurgents.

Your Excellency should take an opportunity of warning the Porte against the probable consequences of so unwise an appointment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 430.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot,

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 28, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a copy of a letter from the Greek Chargé d'Affaires at this Court protesting against fresh arrivals of Circassian Colonists in Thessaly,* and I have to instruct you to enquire into the truth of this report, and, if necessary, to address a remonstrance to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 387.

No. 431.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 28, 1876.

I APPROVE the note, copy of which was inclosed in your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd instant, which you addressed to the Duc Decazes, informing his Excellency of the substance of the instructions respecting the basis of pacification which were sent to Sir H. Elliot by telegraph on the 21st instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY

No. 432.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 28, 1876, 9·20 P.M.

I AM informed that the Porte has received reports of a regular attack made by the Servian forces on different points. If these reports are confirmed, Turkish army will resume operations.

No. 433.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 28, 1876, 9·30 P.M.

THE answer of the Porte to your Lordship's proposals will not be given until after another Grand Council to be held on Saturday, but the proposed Protocol and the signification of autonomy offer difficulties that are likely to prove insuperable. I proposed to-day that the Porte should say that having adopted for the whole Empire a system of administrative autonomy such as is explained in your Lordship's proposal, it will be ready to record in a Protocol that this system shall be applied to the insurgent provinces, together with the reforms promised in the answer to Count Andrassy's note. Austrian Ambassador is warmly supporting this suggestion, but its adoption seems very doubtful.

No. 434.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 28, 1876, 10 P.M.

I HAVE sent the following to Belgrade :—

"Sir A. Kemball telegraphs at two this afternoon as follows: Servians commenced attack along the whole line at 6 A.M. They have been repulsed everywhere, but not without some loss to the Turks and more to them. Heavy firing still continues."

No. 435.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 29.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 25 *Septembre,* 1876.

LA suspension des hostilités avec la Servie et le Monténégro, fixée jusqu'au $\frac{13}{25}$ courant, expire aujourd'hui. La Sublime Porte, ayant été informée qu'elle sera mise très prochainement à même de connaître la pensée des Puissances médiatrices au sujet de nos conditions de paix, vient de prolonger cette suspension jusqu'au $\frac{21\text{ Septembre}}{3\text{ Octobre}}$ exclusivement. Ainsi les troupes Impériales s'abstiendront encore sept jours, conformément aux ordres qu'elles ont reçus, de tout mouvement offensif, et garderont

les mêmes positions, à la condition que les Serbes et les Monténégrins de leur côté s'abstiendront de tout mouvement offensif.

J'ai communiqué hier cette décision aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances par une note verbale, et je vous en fais part pour votre propre information.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 25, 1876.

THE suspension of hostilities with Servia and Montenegro, agreed upon up to the $\frac{13}{25}$th instant, expires this day. The Sublime Porte, having been informed that it will very shortly be informed of the opinion of the Mediating Powers upon our conditions of peace, has just extended the suspension till $\frac{\text{21st September}}{\text{3rd October}}$ exclusive.

Thus the Imperial troops will abstain for seven days more, in conformity with the orders which they have received, from all offensive operations, and will remain in their present positions, on condition that the Servians and Montenegrins on their side undertake no offensive movement.

I communicated this decision yesterday to the representatives of the Great Powers by a *note verbale,* and I now apprize you thereof for your own information.

No. 436.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 29.)

My Lord, *Paris, September* 28, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes thanked me this morning for the letter dated the 22nd instant, in which I communicated to him the provisions proposed by Her Majesty's Government to the Porte as proper to form the basis of a pacification.

He said that directly he received my letter he sent orders to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to support the proposals.

He then asked me if I could give him any information as to the manner in which the proposals had been received by the Porte.

I told him confidentially that the Porte had on the whole received them favourably, but that it had asked for explanations respecting some points.

It had, I said, inquired, in the first place, whether all its own proposals were to be held to be rejected.

It had also made some objection to the form of a Protocol, and had expressed a preference for an identic note.

Lastly, it had urged the omission of the word "autonomy."

I proceeded to mention to the Duke, briefly and confidentially, the replies your Lordship had made to these observations of the Porte.

With regard to the proposals originally made by Turkey, your Lordship had, I said, pointed out that even those that were least inadmissible presented difficulties of execution, and would give rise to so much delay and so many objections, that it would not be worth while for the Porte to insist upon them.

As to the form of a Protocol, your Lordship had expressed an opinion that it could not be abandoned, and had reminded the Porte that the Constitution of the Lebanon had been embodied in a Protocol in 1861.

Finally, in answer to the objection to the word "autonomy," your Lordship had, I said, observed that it had been generally adopted, and could not now be abandoned, and that the qualifying explanation must suffice to remove the apprehensions of the Porte.

The Duc Decazes expressed a general concurrence in your Lordship's views as there stated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 437.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 28, 1876, *midnight.*

I HAVE communicated to Prince Milan and his Foreign Minister the views of Her Majesty's Government, as conveyed in your Lordship's telegram of last night. Myself

and Italian Consul were told that Turkish offer of prolongation of armistice reached Belgrade too late; that fighting goes on to-day, and it is impossible to interfere. The Servian Government affirm, however, that they are as desirous as ever to see the mediation of Powers brought to a successful issue, and that peace should be promptly restored.

No. 438.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 29, 1876.

I APPROVE the advice which you gave to M. Jonesco respecting the objections raised by the Porte to the passage of Russian volunteers through the Principalities, as reported in your despatch of the 17th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 439.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 29, 1876.

I APPROVE the advice given by you to M. Bratiano on the occasion of the passage of 300 Russian volunteers through the Principalities, as reported in your despatch of the 20th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 440.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 29, 1876.

COUNT WOLKENSTEIN stated to me to-day that Count Andrassy had directed him by telegraph to inform me that the Austro-Hungarian Agent at Cettigné had, on several occasions, reported to him that the Prince of Montenegro was anxious for the presence at his capital of an Agent of Her Majesty's Government, and that he begged the Austro-Hungarian Government to make his wish known in London.

Count Wolkenstein was instructed, in intimating to me the Prince's wishes, to state that it was inferred from the reports received by his Government that the presence at Cettigné of a trustworthy British Agent would produce most desirable results in the interest of peace, as well as on other grounds.

I informed Count Wolkenstein that Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Ragusa, in whose tact and discretion Her Majesty's Government had full confidence, had already, by my directions, proceeded to Cettigné to place himself in direct communication with the Prince.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 441.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 29, 1876, *at noon.*

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphed yesterday evening as follows:—

"Servian attack renewed again and again, supported by heavy artillery until after dark without any success.

"Turks protest with great justice against bad faith of the Servian Commanders.

"It is thought probable that attack may be renewed to-morrow."

I have repeated this telegram to Belgrade.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 442.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 30.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September 21, 1876.*

I HAVE but little to say respecting the question of the bigotry and intolerance of the Orthodox (Greek) Christians, a topic which I left unnoticed; although it is one which I have frequently heard discussed since I have been at Ragusa.

The number of persons in this part of Dalmatia who profess the Orthodox faith is inconsiderable. I have, therefore, no personal experience of their views respecting the Catholics, nor of their conduct towards them; and the mutual relations of the members of the two Churches in Bosnia and the Herzegovina will have been amply reviewed in Mr. Consul Holmes' official correspondence.

That the Dalmatian Catholics, however, entertain the most lively apprehension of the intentions of the rival sect with regard to them, should that sect ever establish a firm footing in Dalmatia, I know to be a fact. I have conversed upon this subject with the Bishop and some of his clergy, and their language respecting the eventual predominance of the Greek Church is that of men who contemplate not only persecution but martyrdom. The Bishop is not a man to indulge in exaggeration of speech; nor is he a politician in any other sense than that in the interests of the Catholic religion; he is not desirous of the extirpation of the Turk. Animated by the same sentiments, I believe, that many of the parochial clergy have used their influence over their parishioners in the direction of neutrality.

In talking with me, the Bishop has upon several occasions referred to the possibility of Russia establishing her power in these regions, and expressed his conviction that whether that power were direct or indirect, it would be exerted for the suppresion of Catholicism.

A Polish Abbé, exiled for life to Siberia in 1864 for complicity in the Insurrection, but who succeeded in effecting his escape, has been here for some weeks past, and, I fancy, has not neglected to stimulate by the contributions of his experience the alarm already existing among the Catholic clergy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 443.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 30.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September 22, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, to your Lordship two copies of a short essay upon "The Inhabitants of the Mountain Districts forming the Frontier of Montenegro and the Herzegovina." This essay is by M. de Sainte-Marie, French Vice-Consul at Ragusa, who was for some years employed in the French Consulates at Serajevo and Mostar.

The author, who is a good Slav scholar, gives the religious statistics of the eight clans composing the border population; showing that out of a total of 24,938 souls, 15,075 profess the Orthodox (Greek) faith, and the remaining 9,863 that of Mahomet. The latter, therefore, amount to a little more than a third of the total population.

It is from the tribes living in these districts, as has been repeatedly pointed out by Mr. Consul Holmes and myself, that the nucleus of the insurgent force has been formed. It is mentioned in the accompanying tract that these mountaineers have always enjoyed a practical independence; the fact being, as I stated in my despatch of the 14th of June, that their taxation has been merely nominal, and that the officials of their local tribunals are not Mussulmans but Orthodox Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 443.

Essay entitled "Herzégovine et Bosnie, Frontières du Monténégro;" par E. de Sainte-Marie, charge par le Gouvernement Français d'une Mission Archéologique en Tunisie.

I. LES populations Herzégoviniennes et Bosniaques, établies le long de la frontière nord du Monténégro, sont celles qui méritent le plus d'attention en raison de ce voisinage même, elles s'étendent depuis la Baie de Sutorina à l'ouest, jusqu'à la langue de terre resserrée entre la Serbie et la dite Principauté, c'est-à-dire à l'est, jusque sous Siénitza, du 16° au 17° 30′ de latitude, par 42° 30′, 43° de longitude. Elles se divisent en huit clans ou tribus principales.

Ce sont, en commençant par la gauche, les Zubchi, Baniani, Nichsich, Piva, Drobniak, Charansi, Kolachin et Wassoïevitch.

1. Le territoire de Zubchi, le plus petit de tous, mesure environ quatre heures du nord au sud, et deux heures de l'ouest à l'est, dans sa largeur moyenne; il forme le territoire de Sutorina qui s'avance jusqu'à la mer, près de Castelnuovo, au sud; il est borné à l'ouest par la Dalmatie et à l'est par le Monténégro et la Dalmatie; au nord, il est séparé du district de Trébigné, dont il relève administrativement, par une ligne fictive qui prend Klobrino, à la frontière Monténégrine, et va parallèlement à la Rivière Trébincitza, toucher au district de Raguse.

Aucun cours d'eau important n'arrose ce territoire montagneux et pierreux, la route du port de Sutorina à Trébigné coupe ce district en deux, du nord au sud, en passant par les villages de Blokrino, Biélitzi, Grab, Tuli et Tchitchévo.

L'endroit le plus important de cette région est le port de Sutorina, dont le Traité de Passarovitch interdit l'usage à la Turquie. Au point de vue stratégique, Sutorina a une grande valeur, puisque les navires de guerre peuvent y aborder, sans détours, et y jeter, en cas de besoin, des hommes et des munitions facilement transportables par la voie de Trébigné et Bilek. Les points intermédiaires entre la mer et ces deux chefs-lieux, par exemple Klobrino, Grab, Tuli, etc., par lesquelles se font les communications avec le littoral, ont une importance telle que le Gouvernement Ottoman devrait les fortifier, pour s'assurer, en cas de guerre, un passage certain entre les montagnes du pays de Zubchi. En effet, une troupe décidée pourrait aisément défendre ces défilés et porter, au moins pour un temps, un sérieux empêchement aux manœuvres d'une armée quelconque. Dans la dernière guerre du Monténégro, on a vu Luca-Vukalovitch opérant dans ces parages contre les troupes Turques, pour leur en fermer l'entrée, et les Monténégrins cherchant sans cesse à investir ce territoire pour couper une des bases d'opération des Osmanlis.

Il n'y a que trois portes pour faire pénétrer des forces en Herzégovine: Klek, Yénibazar, et le port de Sutorina. Or, cette dernière ville étant la plus voisine des confins, et sur le rivage de l'Adriatique, elle est de beaucoup préférable aux deux autres. Klek est situé à dix heures plus au nord-ouest et n'est pas relié à Trébigné par une bonne route; Yénibazar, situé à la frontière de Roumélie, est une voie de terre longue et trop éloignée du théâtre principal des événements; si un navire met sept jours entre Constantinople et Sutorina, un corps d'armée aura besoin de quinze jours, au moins, pour arriver à Yénibazar où il devra se reposer et se reformer avant d'entrer en ligne.

La Turquie n'a, par conséquent, pas d'autre débouché plus rapide et plus stratégique que Sutorina et le pays des Zubchi.

Cette contrée, administrée par les soins du Caïmacam de Trébigné, contient 2,000 Orthodoxes et 1,650 Musulmans répartis dans les localités suivantes: Sutorina, Krouchevitza, Blokrino, Dratchévitza, Kortanitza, Tuli, Kousko, Grab, Bugoïno, Bielitzi.

Le voisinage du Monténégro, celui des populations Dalmates, les Krivochi de Risano, de Castelnuovo, est fort à prendre en considération, car les habitants de Zubchi pourraient facilement s'unir à leurs frères, et renouveler ainsi pour la Turquie les embarras dont l'Autriche n'est sortie en 1869 qu'en faisant des concessions indispensables.

2. Les Baniani forment un petit cercle, situé au nord de celui de Zubchi, dont ils sont séparés par la Rivière Zaslap, qui prend sa source au Monténégro, en avant de la Vallée de Grahovo, et va, au nord-ouest, se jeter dans la Trébincitza.

Aucun cours d'eau important n'arrose cette contrée montagneuse qui forment les monts du Monténégro, le Gestikova Berdo, le Maskova Berdo, et les contreforts des monts Uté, Troglava, Liubomir, et Viducha en Herzégovine.

L'étendue du pays des Baniani est de deux heures du nord au sud, et de trois heures de l'ouest à l'est; ce district s'étend en longueur contre la Montagne Noire et est placé sous Bilek même dont il relève; on y compte 2,200 Orthodoxes, pas des Musulmans. Les localités principales sont: Roudiné, Borèva Kapa, Renovatz, Tufka, Milanitch, Tupani, Vélébitch, Klenatz, Petrovitch, le couvent de Dobritchévo, celui de Kossiérovo et le fort

de Klobuk, situé à une demi-heure de la frontière Monténégrine, en face de la vallée de Grahovo, où les Monténégrins furent vainqueurs en 1862.

La route qui relie Trébigné à Bilek est chargée de commander les Baniani, dont le soulèvement pourrait intercepter les convois de munitions, allant de la mer à Nikchich, avec autant plus de facilité que l'élément Orthodoxe règne là sans partage (2,000 âmes); ce n'est donc qu'au point de vue du transit que les Baniani ont une importance directe, sans parler de l'alliance qu'ils pourraient contracter avec les Zubchi.

3. Nichsich forme un district administrativement placé après les Baniani, et profondément enfoncé dans la Montagne-Noire, comme un coin de fer engagé dans le chêne.

La configuration géographique de ce pays est celle d'un triangle s'appuyant par deux côtés au sud et à l'est contre la Principauté, et dont le troisième côté serait formé par les montagnes de Douga. La limite sud est formée par la Matitza, depuis la Kita jusqu'au Mont Gradatz ; cette rivière, qui prend sa source au Monténégro, reçoit en Herzégovine les eaux de plusieurs affluents arrosant la vallée de Nichsich, ce sont: la Goropolizka, la Mostaïnitza, la Zelta, la Gratchanitza, etc., qui viennent du nord et de l'est. Les montagnes principales sont, au nord, le Douga et l'Utèch.

Le chef-lieu est Nikchich, qui forme le centre administratif d'un des dix casas de l'Herzégovine, avec Bilek, Trébigné, &c.

Nikchich a une double importance stratégique comme position avancée sur le Monténégro, et comme fort défendant l'entrée du défilé de Douga, qui est, en cas d'invasion Monténégrine, la porte de l'Herzégovine par la vallée de Névésigné.

Le défilé susdit communiquant avec la vallée de Gatzko, et avec celle de Névésigné, et formant entre Mostar et Nikchich un couloir entouré à droite et à gauche de montagnes escarpées, la plaine bordée par la Matitza a une valeur d'autant plus grande que le côté vulnérable de cette province, en cas d'offensive sur le chef-lieu, est Douga ; de sa possession ou de sa perte dépend tout le succès d'une campagne. Le Gouvernement Turc semble avoir très-bien compris cette position ; les ouvrages entrepris à Nikchich et les troupes cantonnées à Douga et à Slostop en sont une preuve convaincante. Les Monténégrins ont fait, en 1862, le siége de Nikchich, et s'ils n'avaient pas été arrêtés par une diversion habile, ils auraient, sans nul doute, forcé le défilé de Douga et menacé Mostar. Enfin, il faut considérer que le défilé de Douga et Nikchich aux mains des Turcs, outre qu'ils protégent la province, empêcheraient, en cas de guerre, la réunion des Zubchi, des Baniani, d'un côté, et des Piva, Charansi, Drobniaks, &c., de l'autre. Cette possession coupe en deux les forces belligérantes et paralyse la plupart des efforts du Monténégro.

Les autres localités du district de Nikchich ont une valeur sécondaire ; je citerai Gorniepolje, Tovitch, Braga, Jassenovopoljé, Sipatchko, Orah, Krupatz, &c.

La population du district en question est de 2,175 Orthodoxes et de 1,983 Musulmans, soit, en tout, 4,158 habitants.

4. Le clan des Piva fait suite au pays de Nikchich, il s'appuie à l'ouest, sur le casa de Métokia, sur la plaine de Gatzko et sur Douga ; au nord il est situé à vingt heures de Fostcha ; à l'est il est séparé des Drobniaks par le Mont Dormitor et ses ramifications ; au sud, il fait face au Monténégro, depuis Jassenovopoljé jusqu'à Doutch.

La montagne principale est le Dormitor, haut de 8,000 pieds, se rattachant à la chaîne des Monts Scordus, qui eux-mêmes, relient les Alpes Dinariques aux Balkans ; le cours d'eau le plus remarquable est la Piva, qui sort du Monténégro et parcourt le district du sud au nord, pour aller se réunir, plus au nord, à la Tara vers Tierkvitza, et former avec elle la Drina, affluent de la Save.

La Piva a pour affluents la Komarnitza et la Bukovitza, qui sortent toutes les deux du Mont Dormitor, au nord, et se réunissent à cette rivière dans le Monténégro.

Les endroits remarquables chez les Pivas sont le couvent de Piva, bâti, dit-on, par Ismaël Pacha, Grand Visir du Sultan Mahmoud, en 1736, contre la Piva, Doucht, Pichnitza, Dobrosko, Drugal, Ravno, Pirindol, Izgor, Bézoï, &c.

Ce district compte 1,738 Orthodoxes ; il ne contient pas de Musulmans et dépend du casa de Gutzko.

Les quatre districts susdits, Zubchi, Baniani, Nichsich, Piva, font partie de l'Herzégovine, et représentent une population frontière de 11,724 habitants, dont 3,633 Musulmans et 8,091 Orthodoxes.

Je parlerai maintenant des tribus placés plus à l'est, contre le Monténégro, et relevant de la Bosnie, afin d'embrasser dans son ensemble cette longue zone qui s'étend entre Yeni-Bazar et Sutorina ; il sera ainsi plus facile de se rendre compte des forces et de la distribution de ces populations frontières, qui forment un tout homogène, bien qu'elles dépendent de deux centres administratifs différents.

5. Les Drobniaks font suite, à l'est, aux Pivas dont ils sont séparés par le Mont Dormitor, à l'ouest ; la montagne de Siniani forme une barrière entre eux et le Monté-

négro, au sud ; à l'est, une ligne fictive, partant du gué de la Tara et allant au pied de Siniani, les divise d'avec les Charansi; au nord, la limite suit le cours de la Tara, en dépassant cette rivière sur une étendue d'une heure environ.

Les montagnes principales sont le Dormitor et le Siniani ; la principale rivière est la Tara qui traverse le district du sud-ouest au nord-est, et va vers Tcerkvitza s'unir à la Piva pour former la Drina.

Les villages à signaler sont: Podgosa, Vincovitz, Tepché, Nefertara, Levesi,—ces trois derniers ayant un bac pour traverser la Tara;—enfin, Sézéro, à 3,600 pieds de hauteur.

Les Drobniaks font partie du casa de Tachlidja et du Sandjack de Yéni-Bazar (Bosnie) : la population est d'environ 4,800 habitants, dont 3,000 Orthodoxes et 1,800 Musulmans.

6. Les Charansi, établis à droite et à gauche de la Tara, au-dessous des Drobniaks, dont ils sont séparés par une ligne qui passerait sous Nefertara et Vincovitz, ont pour localités principales : Jassenitch et Protchen, et vivent dans les hauts plateaux qui continuent les ramifications du Dormitor et du Siniani.

Ils dépendent du casa d'Akova, Sandjack de Novi-Bazar, et forment une population de 3,700 âmes, dont 2,700 Musulmans et 1,000 Orthodoxes.

7. Les Kolachin, également situés à droite et à gauche de la Tara, s'avançent assez avant dans la découpure formée par la frontière Monténégrine.

Leur centre est Kolachin, situé à la frontière même et à l'embouchure de la Kapitanova, laquelle se jette dans la Tara; on remarque encore Bielovitz, Stitaritza, Martanovitch, Lipo.

Pour 2,022 habitants on compte 1,600 Musulmans et 400 Orthodoxes.

8. Les Wassoïevitch, sis au-dessous de Sienitza, à droite des Kolachin, forment le dernier clan de la frontière ; ils sont placés à droite et à gauche du Lim qui sort du Monténégro, monte au nord en Bosnie, passe à Prépolié et va se jeter dans la Drina, à côté de Fotcha. Ils ne sont que la continuation des Wassoïevitch du Monténégro, et ils vivent dans les monts Kruchevitza, dont la moitié est engagée dans la Principauté.

Le Kruchevitza sépare les Wassoïevitch du Pachalik de Yéni-Bazar et forme la limite des huit clans dont le lecteur vient de lire la description. Au nord les Wassoïevitch s'étendent jusque sous Akova.

Bielopoljé est le chef-lieu des Wassoïevitch, qui comprennent 1,532 Orthodoxes et 70 Musulmans, en tout 1,602 habitants. Je citerai encore le monastère de Saint-Giuro, placé sous Bielopoljé et contre le Lim.

II. Par suite, la population des huit clans frontières forme, en chiffres ronds, environ 25,000 âmes, dont les deux tiers Chrétiens et l'autre tiers Musulman. Voici, du reste, le tableau exact de la répartition des habitants par clan et par religion :—

TABLEAU Statistique des populations frontières de l'Herzégovine.

Districts.	Superficie en Heures Turques.	Orthodoxes.	Musulmans.	Population Totale.
Zubchi	8	1,980	1,650	3,630
Baniani	7	2,200	..	2,200
Nikchich	16	2,173	1,983	4,156
Piva	20	1,738	..	1,738
Drobniaks	12	3,000	1,800	4,800
Charansi	10	2,000	2,700	4,700
Kolachin	13	452	1,660	2,112
Wassoïevitch	6	1,532	70	1,602
Totaux	92	15,075	9,863	24,938

Par leur position spéciale les districts des Drobniaks, des Charansi, des Kolachin, et des Wassoïevitch, peuvent à volonté, en cas d'hostilités, ou se porter par-dessus le défilé de Douga à Gatsko, ou opérer une diversion autour de Sénitza, couper les routes des montagnes et par une alliance soit avec les Serbes, soit avec les Monténégrins, barrer le chemin de Yénibazar à Sénitza aux troupes venant de Roumélie. En effet, la distance entre les Wassoïevitch et la Serbie n'étant guère plus de trois heures et demie, il serait facile aux Wassoïevitch de servir de trait d'union entre le Monténégro et la Serbie.

Telle est la situation géographique et stratégique des huit clans Herzégoviniens disséminés le long de la frontière Turco-Monténégrine.

En résumé, de Sutorina à Sénitza, c'est-à-dire de la Dalmatie à la Serbie, la contrée est excessivement montagneuse, entrecoupée de petits cours d'eau et difficile à parcourir. Un commencement de route seul va jusqu'à Bilek, il n'y a qu'une vallée, celle de Nikchich et ce n'est qu'à partir de Piva que l'on rencontre les grands cours d'eau, la Tara, le Lim, resserrés entre des rochers escarpés et faciles à défendre. Les monts Dormitor, Siniani, Douga, Uta, Kruchevitza, étendent, partout des ramifications qui, en donnant à ces hauteurs une physionomie particulière en font, en même temps, des lieux inaccessibles aux armées régulières. Aussi l'indépendance est-elle facile à conserver dans ces contrées qu'aucune route ne parcourt et où derrière chaque rocher un homme armé peut arrêter une troupe nombreuse.

Depuis des siècles ces tribus vivent d'une vie autonome souvent attaquée, il est vrai, mais toujours respectée. Aux seizième et dix-septième siècles les Vizirs de Bosnie ont en vain tourné leurs efforts contre ce pays : ils n'y ont trouvé que l'insuccès ou la mort, comme jadis le fameux Hussein-Bey, gendre du Sultan et Gouverneur de Bosnie. Ayant entrepris une expédition contre les Drobniaks, en 1481, il fut battu et tué. Ses entrailles (*drob*, en Slave) furent ensevelies sur place et son corps fut rapporté à Séragévo. Du mot Drob a été formé Drobniak, nom aujourd'hui donné à cette localité.

Les insuccès de Mahmoud Pacha au dix-septième siècle contre les Wassoïevitch sont restés gravés dans la mémoire des chanteurs Herzégoviniens. Au commencement de ce siècle, la Sublime Porte, occupée ailleurs, ne porta pas son attention de ce côté. En 1849, lorsque l'Herzégovine fut étroitement rattachée à l'Empire Ottoman, à la suite de la chute d'Ali Pacha, on pensa vaguement à faire rentrer ces tribus sous une obéissance étroite. Osman Pacha, Gouverneur de Bosnie (1860-68), fit avec ces peuplades d'excellente politique : il leur imposa des Gouverneurs pris dans le pays, il les combla de cadeaux, de dignités, &c., il n'exigea en retour que des impôts minimes. Cependant l'agglomération de ces clans est encore à faire.

Le voisinage du Monténégro, qui n'est pas sans avoir quelques prétentions sur ces contrées, ainsi que la prédominance de l'élément Chrétien, porteront encore pendant longtemps des empêchements sérieux à des tentatives administratives rappelant les procédés habiles d'Osman Pacha. Ces populations ne sont que nominalement soumises à la Sublime Porte : consultez le Budget de la Bosnie vous y verrez, par example, que le casa de Piva donne à peine 20,000 fr. de recettes, tandis que celui de Mostar donne 300,000 fr. Dans plusieurs cercles, chez les Baniani notamment, le représentant Ottoman est Orthodoxe parce que la Sublime Porte ne pourrait pas y faire accepter la présence d'un Osmanli.

Par suite, on peut dire qu'il existe contre le Monténégro, dans le sud de l'Herzégovine, une espèce de République sur laquelle la Turquie règne de nom avec des cadres administratifs assez élastiques. Les rapports du Gouvernement avec ces huit districts se bornent à la perception de certains impôts et à l'encaissement hypothétique de certains autres. Les agents délégués dans ces contrées ont sous leurs ordres des pandours Chrétiens qui remplacent les gendarmes Musulmans que la population n'accepterait pas. Sans nier la Suzeraineté du Sultan, ces clans protégés par les montagnes et par le voisinage des frontières, se sont affranchis à peu près du joug de Constantinople : lorsque deux représentants viennent au chef-lieu ils jurent aux fonctionnaires Turcs, fidélité, attachement, &c., et ensuite, rentrés chez eux, ils rejettent loin d'eux ces serments de circonstance.

L'influence du Monténégro sur ces pays est réelle, mais occulte ; les Orthodoxes se rapprochent naturellement de la Principauté et n'étaient les Musulmans qui forment parmi eux un tiers de la population, ces Chrétiens auraient autrement paralysé l'autorité de la Sublime Porte sur le pays. Mais aussi, pour tout dire, si ces Chrétiens sont zélés partisans du Monténégro, ils n'aiment pas moins leur quasi indépendance ; voilà pourquoi, depuis des siècles, ces clans forment entre la Turquie et le Monténégro une zone politique intermédiaire.

Je termine ici cette étude consacrée principalement à la géographie des contrées bien peu connues, et j'y joins, pour l'intelligence de ce travail, un croquis de carte où l'on trouvera groupés tous les renseignements que j'ai été obligé de disséminer afin de mieux m'expliquer.

(Signé) E. DE SAINTE-MARIE.

(Translation.)

1. THE Herzegovinian and Bosnian populations established along the northern frontier of Montenegro are those that merit the most attention on account of their

vicinity. They extend from the Bay of Sutorina, on the west, to the tongue of land inclosed between Servia and the said Principality; that is to say, on the east, as far as Sienitza, from the 16° to the 17° 30′ of latitude, by the 42° 30′, 43° of longitude. They are divided into eight principal clans or tribes.

These are, commencing from the left, the Zubchi, Baniani, Nichsich, Piva, Drobniak, Charansi, Kolachin, and Wassoïevitch.

The territory of Zubchi, the smallest of all, measures about four hours from north to south, and two hours from west to east in its mean breadth. It forms the territory of Sutorina, which advances southward to the sea near Castelnuovo; it is bounded on the west by Dalmatia; on the east by Montenegro and Dalmatia. On the north it is separated from Trebigné, on which it depends administratively, by an imaginary line, which takes in Klobrino on the Montenegrin frontier, and, proceeding parallel to the River Trebincitza, touches the district of Ragusa.

No important stream waters this mountainous and rocky territory; the road from the port of Sutorina to Trebigné divides the district in two, from north to south, passing by the villages of Blokrino, Bielitzi, Grab, Tuli, and Tchitchevo.

The most important spot in this region is the port of Sutorina, the use of which is forbidden to Turkey by the Treaty of Passarovitch. From a strategical point of view, Sutorina is of great value, as ships of war can get direct anchorage there, and, if necessary, throw in men and supplies easily transportable by the Trebigné and Belek line. The intermediate points between the sea and these two chief towns—for instance, Klobrino, Grab, Tuli, &c., by which communication is kept up with the coast—are so important that the Ottoman Government ought to fortify them, to secure in case of war a passage between the mountains of the Zubchi country. In fact, a resolute band could easily defend these passes, and occasion—at least, for a time—a serious hindrance to the manœuvres of any army. The last Montenegrin war saw Luca-Vukalovitch operating in these regions against the Turkish troops to prevent their entry, and the Montenegrins continually seeking to invest this territory to sever one of the bases of operations of the Osmanlis.

There are only three gates by which forces can penetrate into Herzegovina—Klek, Yenibazar, and the port of Sutorina. This last town being nearest the frontiers, and on the shore of the Adriatic, it is preferable by far to the two others. Klek is situated more to the north-west by ten hours, and is not united to Trebigné by a good road. Yénibazar, situated on the frontier of Roumelia, is a long land journey, too remote from the principal theatre of events. It takes a ship seven days to go from Constantinople to Sutorina, but a corps d'armée would require fifteen days at least to reach Yénibazar, where it would require to rest, and be reformed before being placed in line.

Turkey, therefore, has no point of access more rapid and strategical than Sutorina and the country of the Zubchi.

This country, governed by the Kaïmakam, contains 2,000 Catholics and 1,650 Mussulmans, distributed in the following localities:—Sutorina, Krouchevitza, Blokrino. Dratchevitza, Kortanitza, Tuli, Kousko, Grab, Bugvïno, Bielitzi.

The vicinity of Montenegro, that of the Dalmatian populations, the Krivochi of Risano, and of Castelnuovo, is decidedly to be taken into consideration, for the inhabitants of Zubchi might easily unite with their brothers, and thus cause Turkey the same embarrassments from which Austria only escaped in 1869 by granting indispensable concessions.

2. The Baniani form a little district north of that of the Zubchi, from which they are separated by the River Zaslap, which rises in Montenegro in advance of the Valley of Grahovo, and, running north-west, falls into the Trebincitza.

No stream of importance waters this mountainous country, formed by the mountains of Montenegro, the Gestikova Berdo, the Maskova Berdo, and the spurs of the mountains Ute, Troglava, Liuboumir, and Viducha in Herzegovina.

The extent of the country of the Baniani is two hours from north to south and three hours from west to east. The district extends lengthwise along the Black Mountain and is placed under Bilek, on which it depends. There are 2,200 Catholics there, no Mussulmans. The principal places are: Roudiné, Boréva-kapa, Renovatz, Tufka, Milanitch, Tupani, Vélébitch, Klenatz, Petrovitch, the Convent of Dobritchévo, that of Kossiérovo, and the fort of Klobuk, situated half-an-hour from the Montenegrin frontier, facing the Valley of Grahovo, where the Montenegrins were successful in 1862.

The road joining Trebigné with Bilek is intended to command the Baniani, whose revolt might intercept the convoys of stores on the way from the sea to Nikchich, and the more easily so because the sole element there is the Catholic (2,000 souls). The

Baniani owe, therefore, their only direct importance to the question of transit, putting aside any alliance they might contract with the Zubchi.

3. Nichsich forms a district, placed administratively next to the Baniani, and sunk deeply in the Black Mountain, like a wedge of iron fixed in an oak.

The geographical configuration of this country is that of a triangle, resting on two sides—the south and the east—on the Principality, the third side being formed by the mountains of Douga. The southern boundary is formed by the Matitza from the Kita as far as Mount Gradatz. This river, which rises in Montenegro, receives in Herzegovina the waters of several tributaries watering the valley of Nichsich; these are, the Goropolizka, the Mostaïnitza, the Zelta, the Gratchanitza, &c., which flow from the north and east. The principal mountains are the Douga and the Utech, in the north.

The chief town is Nikchich, which constitutes the administrative centre of the ten Cazas of Herzegovina, with Bilek, Trebigné, &c.

Nikchich possesses a double strategical importance as an advance post against Montenegro, and, as a fort, defending the entry of the pass of Douga, which, in the case of a Montenegrin invasion, is the gate of Herzegovina by the valley of Névésigné.

As the above-mentioned pass communicates with the Valley of Gatzko and with that of Névésigné, and forms, between Mostar and Nickchich, a passage flanked on the right and left by steep mountains, the plain bordered by the Matitza has increased in importance, from the fact that the vulnerable side of this province, in case of attack on the chief town, is Douga. On its possession or loss depends all the success of a campaign.

The Turkish Government appears to have fully understood this position; the works undertaken at Nikchich and the troops cantoned at Douga and at Slostop prove this convincingly. The Montenegrins laid seige, in 1862, to Nikchich, and if they had not been arrested by an able diversion, they would have doubtless forced the pass of Douga and threatened Mostar. Finally, the possession by the Turks of the pass of Douga and Nikchich, besides protecting the province, must be considered to prevent, in case of war, the union of the Zubchi and the Baniani on the one side, and the Piva, Charansi, Drobniaks, &c., on the other. This possession cuts the belligerent forces in two and paralyses the greater part of the efforts of Montenegro.

The other places in the district of Nikchich have a secondary value. I will quote Gorniepolje, Tovitch, Braga, Jassenovopoljé, Sipatchko, Orah, Krupatz, &c.

The population of the district in question consists of 2,175 Catholics and 1,983 Mussulmans, in all, 4,158 inhabitants.

4. The clan of the Piva joins the country of Nikchich; it is bordered on the west by the Caza of Métokia, by the Plain of Gatzko and Douga; on the north it is twenty hours from Fostcha; on the east it is separated from the Drobniaks by Mount Dormitor and its ramifications; in the south it faces Montenegro from Jassenovopoje to Doutch.

The principal mountain is the Dormitor, 8,000 feet high, connected with the chain of Scordu Mountains, which, themselves, connect the Dinaric Alps with the Balkans. The most remarkable stream is the Piva, which flows from Montenegro, and traverses the district, from south to north, to join further north the Tara, near Tierkvitza, and form with it the Drina, a tributary to the Save.

The Piva has the Komarnitza and the Bukovitza for tributaries, both of which rise in Mount Dormitor, in the north, and join that river in Montenegro.

The remarkable places of Piva are the Convent of Piva built, it is said, by Ismaël Pasha, Grand Vizier of the Sultan Mahmoud, in 1736, on the Piva, Doucht, Pichnitza, Dobrosko, Drugal, Ravno, Pirindol, Izgor, Bézoï, &c.

This district counts 1,738 Catholics; it contains no Mussulmans, and is subject to the Caza of Gutzko.

The four above-mentioned districts, Zubchi, Baniani, Nichsich, Piva, form part of Herzegovina and represent a border population of 11,724 inhabitants, of which 3,633 are Mussulmans and 8,091 Catholics.

I will now speak of the tribes living farther to the east, close to Montenegro, and subject to Bosnia, in order to embrace in its entirety the long zone which extends between Yeni-bazar and Sutorina; it will be easier thus to calculate the elements and the distribution of these border populations, which constitute a homogeneous whole, although they are dependent on two different administrative centres.

5. The Drobniaks join in the east the Pivas, from whom they are separated by Mount Dormitor, in the west; the Mountain of Siniani forms a barrier between them and Montenegro, in the south; in the east an imaginary line, starting from the ford of the Tara and reaching to the foot of Siniani, divides them from the Charansi; in the

north, the boundary follows the course of the Tara, going beyond this river to the extent of about an hour.

The principal mountains are the Dormitor and the Siniani; the principal river is the Tara, which traverses the district from south-west to north-east, and runs towards Tcerkvitza, uniting with the Piva to form the Drina.

The villages to be mentioned are—Podgosa, Vincovitz, Tepché Nefertara, Levesi, the three last having a ferry to cross the Tara; lastly, Sézéro, 3,600 feet in height.

The Drobniak form part of the Caza of Tachlidja and of the Sandjak of Yeni-bazar (Bosnia); the population is about 4,800 inhabitants, of whom 3,000 are Catholics and 1,800 Mussulmans.

6. The Charansi, established on the right and left of the Tara, below the Drobniaks, from whom they are separated by a line drawn below Nefertara and Vincovitz, have, as their principal localities, Jassenitch and Protchen, and live on the high plateaux which continue the ramifications of the Dormitor and the Siniani.

They are a dependency of the Caza of Akova, Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, and constitute a population of 3,700 souls, of whom 2,700 are Mussulmans and 1,000 Catholics.

7. The Kolachin, also situated on the right and left of the Tara, penetrate pretty deeply into the cleft formed by the Montenegrin frontier.

Their centre is Kolachin, situated on the frontier itself and at the mouth of the Kapitanova, which falls into the Tara; Bielovitz, Stitaritza, Martanovitch, Lipo, should also be mentioned.

Out of 2,022 inhabitants are to be counted 1,600 Mussulmans and 400 Catholics.

8. The Wassoïevitch, situated below Sienitza, to the right of the Kolachin, constitute the last frontier clan; they are placed on the right and left of the Lim, which rises in Montenegro, flows northwards into Bosnia, passes Prépolié, and discharges itself into the Drina, near Fotcha. They are only the continuation of the Wassoïevitch of Montenegro, and they live in the Kruchevitza mountains, half of which are within the Principality.

The Kruchevitza separates the Wassoïevitch from the Pashalik of Yeni-Bazar, and constitutes the boundary of the eight clans, the description of which the reader has read. In the north the Wassoïevitch extend to below Akova.

Bielopoljé is the chief town of the Wassoïevitch, who comprise 1,532 Catholics and 70 Musulmans, in all 1,602 inhabitants. I will further mention the Monastery of St. Giuro, situated below Bielopoljé and near the Lim.

II. Consequently the population of the eight frontier clans constitutes, in round numbers, about 25,000 souls, of whom two-thirds are Christians and the other third Mussulmans. The following is an exact statistical table of the division of the inhabitants according to clan and religion:—

STATISTICAL Table of the Frontier Populations of Herzegovina.

Districts.	Area in Turkish hours.	Catholics.	Mussulmans.	Total Population.
Zubchi	8	1,980	1,650	3,630
Baniani	7	2,200	..	2,200
Nichsich	16	2,173	1,983	4,156
Piva	20	1,738	..	1,738
Drobniaks	12	3,000	1,800	4,800
Charansi	10	2,000	2,700	4,700
Kolachin	13	452	1,660	2,112
Wassoïevitch	6	1,532	70	1,602
Total	92	15,075	9,863	24,938

From their peculiar position the districts of the Drobniaks, Charansi, Kolachin, and Wassoïevitch can, at pleasure, in case of hostilities, either proceed by the pass of Douga to Gatzko or make a detour round Senitza, cut the mountain roads, and by an alliance either with the Servians or the Montenegrins, bar the road from Yeni-Bazar to Senitza to troops coming from Roumelia. In fact, as the distance between the Wassoïevitch and Servia is scarcely more than three hours and a half, the Wassoïevitch might easily serve as a link of union between Montenegro and Servia.

Such is the geographical and strategical situation of the eight Herzegovinian clans scattered along the Turko-Montenegrin frontier.

To sum up; the country from Sutorina to Senitza, that is to say, from Dalmatia to

Servia, is excessively mountainous, intersected by little streams and difficult to traverse. A commencement only of a road goes as far as Bilek; there is only one valley, that of Nikchich; and it is only after leaving Piva that one meets with the large streams, the Tara and the Lim, confined within steep rocks and easy to defend. The mountains Dormitor, Siniani, Douga, Uta, Kruchevitza, throw out in every direction spurs which, while they give to these heights a peculiar character, at the same time form ground inaccessible to a regular army. Independence is easily maintained in these countries which no road traverses, and where, behind each rock, an armed man can check a numerous force.

For centuries these tribes have lived a life of autonomy, often, it is true, attacked, but always respected. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the Viziers of Bosnia in vain directed their efforts against this country; they, as in the instance of the famous Hussein Bey, son-in-law of the Sultan and Governor of Bosnia, found there only failure or death. Having undertaken an expedition against the Drobniaks, in 1481, he was defeated and killed. His intestines ("drob" in Sclavonic) were buried on the spot, and his body brought back to Séragévo. From the word "drob" was derived Drobniak, the name now given to this locality.

The failures of Mahmoud Pasha in the seventeenth century against the Wassoïevitch remain engraven in the memory of the Herzegovinian bards. At the beginning of this century, the Sublime Porte, occupied elsewhere, did not turn its attention in that direction. In 1849, when Herzegovina was closely reunited to the Ottoman Empire, after the fall of Ali Pasha, there was a vague idea of reimposing obedience on these tribes. The policy of Osman Pasha, Governor of Bosnia (1860-68), with the population was excellent. He gave them Governors taken from the country, overwhelming them with presents and honours, and exacting but trifling taxes in return. The consolidation of these clans, however, is still to be effected.

The neighbourhood of Montenegro, which is not without its pretension to these countries, together with the predominance of the Christian element, will long serve as serious hindrances to administrative experiments recalling the able proceedings of Osman Pasha. These populations are only nominally subject to the Sublime Porte. On consulting the Budget of Bosnia, for example, it will be seen that the Caza of Piva scarcely yields 20,000 francs of receipts, while that of Mostar yields 300,000 francs. In several districts, notably among the Baniani, the Ottoman Representative is a Catholic, because the Sublime Porte has failed to make them accept the presence of an Osmanli.

Consequently, it may be said that there exists close to Montenegro, in the south of Herzegovina, a kind of Republic, over which Turkey nominally reigns, with a very elastic administrative framework. The relations of the Government with these eight districts are confined to the collection of certain taxes, and the hypothetical receipt of certain others. The commissioned agents in these countries have under their orders Christian pandoors, who take the place of the Mussulman gendarmes, whom the population would not accept. Without denying the suzerainty of the Sultan, these clans, protected by the mountains and the vicinity of the frontiers, are almost free from the yoke of Constantinople; when two representatives arrive at the chief town they swear fidelity, attachment, &c., to the Turkish functionaries, and then, once returned home, they throw aside these temporary oaths.

The influence of Montenegro on these countries is real, but occult; the Catholics naturally incline to the Principality, and were it not for the Mussulmans, who form among them a third of the population, these Christians would have paralyzed the authority of the Sublime Porte over the country. But yet, to speak openly, these Christians, though zealous partisans of Montenegro, nevertheless love their quasi-independence. This is the reason why for centuries these clans have formed an intermediate political zone between Turkey and Montenegro.

I close here this study, which is principally devoted to the geography of countries little known, and I join to it, that the work may be understood, a map, on which will be found grouped together all the facts which I have been obliged, in order to make myself clear, to disperse.

(Signed) E. DE SAINTE-MARIE.

No. 444.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September* 30.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 28 *Septembre,* 1876.

JE vous ai signalé successivement les violations partielles de la suspension d'armes, commises par les Serbes. D'après un télégramme que nous recevons aujourd'hui même du Généralissime Abdul Kérim Pacha, la lutte vient de recommencer sur toute la ligne ; et, cette fois-ci, la suspension des hostilités est ouvertement violée par les Serbes. Ce matin l'armée Impériale s'est vue attaquée de tous côtés devant Aléxinatz par un feu d'artillerie violent. Nos troupes ont dû y riposter. Mais les Serbes ne cessent d'établir des renforts sur le théâtre de la lutte, et la bataille continue encore avec un terrible acharnement.

Cet acte démontre clairement la résolution préméditée et bien arrêtée des Serbes de reprendre sérieusement les hostilités. Il est dès lors évident que l'armée Impériale ne peut plus se tenir sur la défensive sans manquer à ses devoirs les plus impérieux.

Veuillez vous énoncer dans ce sens auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 28, 1876.

I HAVE repeatedly informed you of the partial violations of the suspension of hostilities of which the Servians have been guilty. According to a telegram which we have received this very day from the Commander-in-chief, Abdul Kerim Pasha, the struggle has recommenced along the whole line; and this time the suspension of hostilities is openly violated by the Servians. This morning the imperial army was attacked on all sides before Alexinatz by a heavy artillery fire. Our troops were forced to reply. But the Servians are continually sending reinforcements to the scene of the struggle, and the battle is fiercely raging.

This conduct clearly proves a fixed and premeditated intention on the part of the Servians to resume hostilities seriously. It is consequently evident that the Imperial army can no longer remain upon the defensive if it has any regard for its most imperative duty.

I request that you will express yourself in this sense to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 445.

MM. Zankof and Balabanof to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 30.)

London, 28 *Warwick Street, Regent Street, le* 30 *Septembre,* 1876.

Excellence,

PAR la lettre de recommandation ci-incluse, votre Excellence verra quelles sont les qualités des Soussignés, et quel est le but de leur voyage en Angleterre.

Nous voudrions, Excellence, pouvoir obtenir de votre Excellence la permission de vous dérober quelques uns de vos précieux moments afin de vous entretenir nous-mêmes des affaires de notre malheureux pays.

En attendant, et dans le cas où votre Excellence ne saurait nous accorder ce moment aujourd'hui même, nous avons l'honneur de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien remettre à Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre le mémoire ci-inclus dont nous sommes porteurs pour elle de la part de la nation Bulgare, ainsi que la supplique dont nous l'avons accompagné

Nous avons, &c.
Les Délégués Bulgares,
(Signé) D. ZANKOF.
MARCO D. BALABANOF.

(Translation.)

Excellency, *London, September* 30, 1876.

YOUR Excellency will learn from the inclosed letter of introduction what is the position of the undersigned, and what the object of their visit to England. We are anxious, Excellency, to prevail upon you to devote to us a little of your precious time, so that we may personally lay before you the state of our unhappy country.

In the meantime, and lest your Excellency should be unable to spare us any time to-day, we have the honour to request your Excellency to lay before Her Majesty the Queen of England, the inclosed Memorandum, which we have been charged to present to her on behalf of the Bulgarian nation, as well as the petition which we annex to it.

We have, &c.
The Bulgarian Delegates,
(Signed) D. ZANKOF.
MARCO D. BALABANOF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 445.

Petition addressed to Her Majesty.

Madame, *Londres, ce* 30 *Septembre* 1876.

DÉLÉGUÉS de la nation Bulgare dont les malheurs inouïs ont eu un long retentissement dans le monde entier, nous avons l'honneur de présenter à votre Majesté un mémoire. Elle verra quelle est depuis cinq siècles la vraie situation de cette nation, et quels sont les vœux qu'elle soumet aux Puissances Chrétiennes de l'Europe pour ses futures destinées.

Madame,—Au milieu de ses cruelles souffrances, le malheureux peuple Bulgare a pu pousser un soupir de soulagement à la nouvelle qu'une grande et magnanime nation comme l'est la nation Anglaise en Europe, indignée des atrocités Turques qui décimaient ce peuple et réduisaient en cendres les villages qu'il habite et les champs qu'il cultive, prenait part à ses malheurs, protestait énergiquement contre ces abominations et s'empressait de lui venir en aide. Ce soupir de soulagement, Madame, n'a pas tardé à se changer en un ferme espoir pour l'amélioration du sort de notre nation, et c'est cet espoir qui a fait naître dans son sein la pensée d'adresser un mémoire aux Souverains Chrétiens de l'Europe.

Madame,—Des milliers d'êtres humains, des milliers de veuves et d'orphelins que la charité Anglaise a pu conserver à la vie, bénissent déjà et béniront à tout jamais le nom d'Angleterre. Ils bénissent aussi le nom de votre Majesté appelée par la Divine Providence à être la Reine bien-aimée d'une aussi grande nation. Mais le peuple Bulgare, Madame, ne pourra désormais exister si ses vœux, exprimés dans le mémoire ci-inclus, ne sont pas pris en considération par les Souverains de l'Europe, protecteurs des peuples Chrétiens d'Orient. Ce serait le remettre entre les mains de ses bourreaux que de le laisser dans l'état d'esclavage où il se trouve. Votre Majesté, dont les sentiments de justice et d'humanité servent d'exemple à toute une nation, ne le voudra certainement pas; tout au contraire, non seulement elle agira de manière à faire partager ses sentiments d'équité à son Gouvernement éclairé, mais elle voudra bien le charger d'appuyer par toute son influence les vœux exprimés dans le mémoire que nous avons l'honneur de soumettre à votre Majesté.

Madame,—Grande Reine d'une grande nation, soyez la protectrice généreuse d'un peuple gémissant depuis cinq siècles dans une domination avilissante. Ce sera pour votre Majesté un glorieux titre de plus qui ajoutera à l'éclat de votre règne à jamais mémorable.

Nous avons, &c.
Les Délégués Bulgares,
(Signé) D. ZANKOF.
MARCO D. BALABANOF.

(Translation.)

Madam, *London, September* 30, 1876.

AS delegates of the Bulgarian nation, whose unparalleled misfortunes have attracted so much attention throughout the whole world, we have the honour to lay before your Majesty a memorandum. Your Majesty will see what has been the real position of this nation for five centuries past, and what are the wishes as regards its future destinies which it submits for the consideration of the Christian Powers of Europe.

Madam,—In the midst of its cruel sufferings, the unhappy Bulgarian people sighed with relief on hearing that a great and magnanimous nation like the English, roused to indignation by the Turkish atrocities, by the decimation of the people, the burning of the villages and the devastation of the country, sympathized in these their misfortunes, had energetically protested against these abominations, and were hastening to come to their assistance.

This sigh of relief, Madam, was soon transformed into a firm hope for the ameliora-

tion of the lot of our nation; and it is this hope which gave birth to the idea of addressing a memorandum to the Christian Sovereigns of Europe.

Madam,—Thousands of human beings, thousands of widows and orphans, whose lives have been preserved by English charity, already bless, and will for ever bless, the name of England. They bless also the name of your Majesty, called by Divine Providence to be the beloved Queen of so great a nation. But the Bulgarian people, Madam, will no longer be able to exist if its wishes, as expressed in the inclosed memorandum, are not taken into consideration by the sovereigns of Europe, the protectors of the Christian populations of the East. To leave it in its present state of slavery, would be to hand it over into the hands of its executioners. Your Majesty, whose feelings of justice and humanity serve as an example to a whole nation, would certainly not wish this; on the contrary, not only will she take care that her enlightened Government shall share her feelings of justice, but she will further instruct them to support, with all their influence, the wishes expressed in the memorandum which we have the honour of laying before your Majesty.

Madam,—Illustrious Queen of a great nation, may you be the generous protector of a people who have groaned for five centuries past under a degrading rule. It would give another glorious title to your Majesty, and would add to the splendour of your reign, which is already of imperishable renown.

We have, &c.
The Bulgarian Delegates,
(Signed) D. ZANKOF.
MARCO D. BALABANOF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 445.

Memorandum.

IL existe dans la Turquie d'Europe un peuple infortuné répandu en grand nombre sur les deux côtés des Balkans.

Converti au Christianisme déjà au neuvième siècle, le peuple Bulgare, tour à tout vainqueur ou tributaire du bas Empire, a fini après d'héroïques luttes, dont le souvenir s'esr conservé jusqu'aujourd'hui dans ses traditions populaires, par succomber vers la fin du quatorzième siècle devant les armes triomphantes des Ottomans.

La perte de son indépendance politique était évidemment un immense malheur pour ce peuple, mais ses conquérants n'ont pas mis longtemps à lui faire sentir qu'il n'était pas seulement conquis, mais qu'il était réduit en état d'esclavage, dans le vrai sens du mot.

Il est impossible de se faire même approximativement une idée de ce que ce malheureux peuple a souffert depuis bientôt cinq siècles, sous la domination avilissante des Turcs. C'est même un miracle qu'il ait pu subsister jusqu'à ce jour, martyr séculaire destiné à servir de vivant témoignage, devant le monde civilisé, contre les cruautés de ses oppresseurs.

Peuple laborieux et paisible s'il en fut jamais, les Bulgares n'arrosent de leur sueur depuis cinq siècles la terre qu'ils cultivent qu'au profit presqu'exclusif de leurs oppresseurs, toujours insatiables. En récompense, ces derniers les traitent comme des animaux, bons seulement à être exploités de la manière la plus lucrative. La vie d'un Bulgare, ses biens acquis, avec tant de peine, son honneur, l'honneur de son foyer domestique, sa femme et ses enfants sont à la discrétion du dernier des Musulmans, à la merci du premier venu des zaptiés (agent de police), véritable fléau du pays.

L'administration n'est qu'une machine habilement organisée par le Gouvernement central à l'effet de mieux exploiter les Rayas de la Bulgarie.

L'instruction, l'agriculture, l'industrie, le commerce, les travaux publics, loin de trouver un encouragement quelconque, sont au contraire entravés ou paralysés à dessein.

La justice n'y est qu'un vain mot destiné à couvrir la cupidité ou la malversation des autorités locales, complices la plupart du temps de tous les abus, de tous les excès et de tous les maux qu'on fait endurer aux Rayas Bulgares.

Victime de meurtre ou de vol de la part d'un Turc, lésé dans sa propriété qu'il cultive soigneusement pour la rendre plus productive, insulté ou maltraité sans aucun motif, offensé ou atteint même dans son honneur (tout cela, toujours au su des autorités administratives), l'infortuné Raya Bulgare est d'avance sûr de perdre, quand même, sa cause devant la justice Turque. Et, malheur à celui qui à bout de patience oserait, pour repousser l'attaque, avoir recours à son droit de légitime défense! ce droit n'existe en

Turquie que pour les Turcs, qui, tout en n'ayant pas l'occasion de s'en servir (car personne n'ose les attaquer), en usent quand même et avec d'autant plus de facilité que le port d'armes, rigoureusement défendu aux Bulgares, est bien permis aux premiers, armés souvent de pied en cap, non seulement dans les campagnes, mais même dans les villes. Chaque année, depuis surtout une vingtaine d'années, on compte par centaines les Bulgares tombés sous les coups mortels des Turcs fanatiques, sans que la justice Turque se donne jamais la peine de chercher les coupables et de les punir. La vie d'un Guiaour Bulgare ne vaut pas cette peine, les Turcs étant les maîtres du pays.

Écrasés par les lourdes charges souvent quadruplées, par les incroyables abus auxquels se livrent régulièrement les percepteurs, de complicité avec les autorités et les influences locales, les malheureux Bulgares ne jouissent cependant d'aucun des avantages, qui, ailleurs, correspondent aux impôts payés par les contribuables. Portant presque seuls tout le poids de toutes les guerres de la Turquie, leur bétail, leurs chariots, leurs bêtes de somme, leurs épargnes sont à la disposition des autorités, toutes les fois qu'elle a un ennemi à combattre, soit à l'intérieur, soit à l'extérieur. Les villages sont fréquemment mis en réquisition et les abus commis par les zaptiés en pareil cas rendent mille fois plus dure la condition des paysans. Etant constamment exposés aux meurtres, à la rapine, au viol, aux corvées, aux injures et à des excès de toute sorte, leur état en un mot ne diffère point de celui des esclaves.

C'est sous un tel joug que gémit depuis cinq siècles le peuple Bulgare qui, dans d'autres conditions, aurait pu, par son amour du travail et son esprit industriel, transformer en pays florissant sous tous les rapports la belle contrée qu'il habite. Plus d'une fois dans ce siècle de lumière et de progrès, ce peuple au milieu de ses souffrances et de son isolement, a dû tressaillir de joie à la moindre lueur d'espoir pour l'amélioration de son sort. C'est toujours avec l'enthousiasme d'un esclave, attendant un certain soulagement dans ses souffrances, que le peuple Bulgare a salué la nouvelle des réformes Turques depuis le Hati-Schérif de 1839, jusqu'aux plus récentes Proclamations. Mais plus son enthousiasme était grand en ce cas, plus les déceptions de ce peuple étaient amères et poignantes.

C'est un fait digne de remarque, que les promesses solennelles de réforme, restées, d'ailleurs, comme on le sait, à l'état de lettre morte, ont eu toujours pour résultat d'empirer, plutôt que d'améliorer, la situation en Bulgarie. Les abus et les excès de toute sorte en ont revêtu un caractère plus prononcé ; et plus les Bulgares poussés par le courant du progrès, qui agit si puissamment sur les sociétés contemporaires, commençaient à se réveiller, plus la tyrannie, jalouse de ce réveil, s'ingéniait à inventer des moyens pour les maintenir dans leur état de servitude. Admise par des Traités solennels au concert des Puissances Européennes, la Turquie n'a pas changé de système ; tout au contraire, l'idée que les Puissances Chrétiennes s'étaient engagées à respecter l'indépendance et l'intégrité territoriale de l'Empire Ottoman, la rendait plus hardie dans sa manière d'agir à l'égard de ses peuples opprimés.

Les prétendues réformes Turques, du moins pour ce qui concerne la nation Bulgare, n'ont jamais été qu'une amère dérision, jetée très habilement par la Sublime Porte à la face de ceux qui les avaient ou conseillées ou provoquées. Se raillant de toute nouvelle décision dont elles connaissent la source, les autorités Turques en Bulgarie ne savent respecter que le Schéri qu'ils interprêtent à leur façon, mais toujours au préjudice des Bulgares.

Ces mêmes autorités, au bruit de toute réforme, savent s'arranger de manière à surexciter adroitement le fanatisme Turc, afin de neutraliser d'avance tout effet salutaire qu'on pourrait attendre de ces réformes.

C'est juste au moment où l'on prônait le système de prétendues réformes à introduire en Turquie qu'ont été commises l'an passé et cet été en Bulgarie, les atrocités qui ont eu un si triste retentissement dans le monde entier. Sous prétexte d'une révolte ayant pour cause des abus inimaginables et des vexations incroyables, mais dans tous les cas adroitement grossis et habilement exploités par de prétendus réformateurs et par leurs agents, on s'est rué sur la nation Bulgare, et on a voulu en devastant le pays, en massacrant sans distinction d'âge ni de sexe, un grand nombre de ses habitants, en réduisant le reste à l'état de misère, arriver à son extermination totale. L'œuvre des Bachi-Bozouks, armés par ordre du Gouvernement Turc, n'avait pas d'autre but.

Les massacres en masse de milliers d'êtres humains innocents et innoffensifs, le pillage en gros, l'incendie de villages, la profanation d'églises et d'écoles, les viols, la conversion par force à l'Islamisme, l'enlèvement de femmes, de filles et de garçons, les outrages sans nombre, les arrestations par centaines de prétendus coupables, les lourdes chaînes, les coups de baïonnettes sur la route, les tortures inimaginables dans les prisons, les aveux forcés, la pendaison établie sur une grande échelle, la persécution systématique des maîtres d'école, les insultes faites à des prêtres vénérables, hommes paisibles et pères de famille, le mauvais

traitement de tout ce qu'il y avait en Bulgarie de plus ou moins instruit, lettré ou riche; car les instigateurs de toutes ces abominations voulaient tuer non-seulement le corps, mais aussi l'âme de la nation Bulgare: voilà par quels procédés le Gouvernement Turc a voulu faire sentir à cette nation les effets de la nouvelle ère qui s'ouvrait pour l'Empire.

Est-il possible, après tout cela, de s'imaginer que cet infortuné peuple doive être condamné à rester plus longtemps sous le joug avilissant qui pèse sur lui depuis cinq siècles? Quel crime de lèse-humanité a-t-il donc commis pour mériter ce cruel sort en Europe!

Résigné et patient dans son long martyre, le peuple Bulgare n'en peut plus; le comble même de ses malheurs et de ses souffrances a été dépassé, il ne vît plus qu'à moitié. Comme il ne voit pas que son esclavage sous le Gouvernement Turc soit une des conditions nécessaires au maintien de l'équilibre Européen, ou au progrès de la civilisation du genre humain, il s'adresse aux Gouvernements Chrétiens de l'Europe, représentants des peuples civilisés, pour solliciter d'eux un état de choses qui lui permette de vivre, non pas en troupeau d'animaux bons à être tondus ou massacrés quand il plait à leurs maîtres, mais en hommes jouissant de droits imprescriptibles et nécessaires pour son développement intellectuel, moral, et social. L'expérience ayant péremptoirement prouvé de quelle nature et de quelle efficacité peuvent être les réformes Turques, le peuple Bulgare, qui par ses traditions historiques, sa position géographique, son importance numérique, ses qualités de peuple agricole et industriel, possède tous les éléments voulus pour marcher avec succès dans la voie du progrès pacifique, ne met plus aucune confiance dans les réformes. Il prie donc les Puissances protectrices des Chrétiens en Orient, d'intercéder afin de lui faire obtenir le droit de se gouverner dorénavant lui-même.

Il demande en d'autres termes: sa pleine autonomie et un Gouvernement national, garantis par les Grandes Puissances protectrices des Chrétiens d'Orient: unique moyen de pouvoir vivre paisiblement et de se développer graduellement. L'autonomie du peuple Bulgare dans ces conditions pourrait seule le rendre capable de devenir par ses propres lois et par ses propres forces l'un des agents les plus actifs et les plus persévérants du progrès et de la civilisation dans l'Europe Orientale.

Elle serait en même temps la garantie la plus sûre d'une paix durable dans la plus grande partie de la péninsule des Balkans; et, il n'y a qu'elle qui puisse empêcher dans l'avenir le retour des atrocités qui ont justement soulevé l'indignation du monde civilisé. Le peuple Bulgare s'en remet, pour son émancipation pacifique, aux Gouvernements éclairés de l'Europe, en implorant dans ce but leur parole puissante, leur attitude bienveillante, leur intercession officieuse. Il aime à croire qu'après les cruelles épreuves auxquelles il a été soumis par ses maîtres, l'Europe ne voudra plus mettre derechef ces derniers en état de la pousser à des actes de désespoir, au sacrifice même de son existence.

Tels sont les vœux, telles sont les demandes que le peuple Bulgare soumet humblement aux Gouvernements Chrétiens de l'Europe, avec le ferme espoir que les Gouvernements éclairés et humains, quelles que soient les considérations politiques dont ils s'inspirent dans la question d'Orient, ne commettront jamais l'injustice de confier derechef les destinées du peuple Bulgare à ceux qui, après l'avoir tenu tant de siècles sous le joug de l'esclavage, ont entrepris dernièrement son extermination totale.

Laisser désormais le pouvoir entre les mains des Turcs pour le gouvernement de ce peuple, ce serait l'abandonner à son propre bourreau.

L'Europe—l'Europe Chrétienne et civilisée le voudra-t-elle?

Pour la nation Bulgare,
Les deux Délégués,
(Signé) D. ZANKOF.
MARCO D. BALABANOF.

Constantinople, le $\frac{2}{14}$ *Août,* 1876.

(Translation.)

THERE exists in European Turkey an unfortunate people spread in great numbers on both sides of the Balkan.

Converted to Christianity already in the ninth century, the Bulgarian people, by turns vanquisher and tributary of the Lower Empire, after many heroic struggles, the memory of which has been handed down to the present day in popular traditions, succumbed towards the end of the fourteenth century before the triumphant arms of the Ottomans.

The loss of its political independence was evidently an immense misfortune for this nation; but its conquerors were not long in making them feel that they were not only conquered, but reduced to slavery in the true sense of the word.

It is impossible to form, even approximately, an idea of all that this unfortunate nation has suffered, for nearly five centuries, under the degrading domination of the Turks. It is even a wonder that it has subsisted up to the present day as a secular martyr destined to serve as a living witness before the civilized world of the cruelty of the oppressors.

A laborious and peaceful nation if ever there was, the Bulgarians have watered with their sweat for five centuries the land which they cultivate, for the exclusive benefit of their ever insatiable oppressors. Their reward is that the latter treat them merely as animals, out of whom as much profit as possible is to be made. The life of a Bulgarian, his goods, acquired with so much labour, his own honour, the honour of his domestic hearth, his wife and his children, are at the discretion of the lowest Mussulman, at the mercy of any of the zaptiehs (police officers), true scourge of the country.

The Administration is nothing but a machine cleverly organized by the Central Government to make the most profit out of the rayahs of Bulgaria.

Instruction, agriculture, industry, commerce, public works, far from finding any encouragement, are, on the contrary, purposely hampered and paralysed.

Justice is but an empty word, destined to cover the cupidity or malpractices of the local authorities, nearly always accomplices of all the abuses, of all the excesses, and of all the evils which the Bulgarian rayahs are made to suffer.

Whether the victim of murder or theft on the part of the Turks, whether wronged in the property which he carefully cultivates to render it more productive, or insulted or ill-treated without having given any offence, whether offended or even assailed in his honour, all this occurs with the full knowledge of the authorities, and the unfortunate Bulgarian rayah is always certain to lose his cause before a Turkish Tribunal. Woe to him who, wearied out of his patience, should dare to have recourse to the right of legitimate defence in order to repel the attack; this right only exists in Turkey for the Turks, who, although they have no occasion to use it (for no one dares to attack them) use it nevertheless, and with so much the greater facility since the carrying of arms, rigorously prohibited to the Bulgarians, is allowed to the former, who are often armed from head to foot, not only in the country, but in the towns. Every year, and especially within the last twenty years, hundreds of Bulgarians have fallen under the mortal blows of fanatical Turks, without Turkish justice ever troubling itself to find out and punish the guilty. The life of a Bulgarian ghiaour is not worth this trouble, the Turks being the masters of the country.

Crushed by the heavy burdens, often increased fourfold by the incredible abuses which the tax-gatherers, in complicity with the authorities and local influentials, indulge in, these unfortunate Bulgarians do not enjoy any of the advantages which elsewhere correspond to the imposts paid by the taxpayers. Bearing nearly the entire burden of all the wars of Turkey, their cattle, their carts, their beasts of burden, their savings, are at the disposal of the authorities whenever they have either a domestic or foreign enemy to fight against. The villages are often put under requisition, and the abuses in such a case committed by the zaptiehs render the position of the peasants a thousand times harder. Being constantly exposed to murders, plunder, rape, statute-labour, injuries, and excesses of all kinds, their state does not differ from that of slaves.

It is under such a yoke that the Bulgarian nation has pined for five centuries, a nation which, under other conditions, might, by its love of labour and its industrial spirit, have transformed the fine country which they inhabit into a country flourishing in all respects. More than once in this century of progress and enlightenment has this nation, in the midst of its suffering and isolation, leaped for joy at the faintest glimmer of hope for the amelioration of its lot. It was always with the enthusiasm of a slave waiting for a certain relief to his sufferings that the Bulgarian nation has welcomed the news of Turkish reforms since the Hatti-Scherif of 1839 down to the most recent proclamations. But the greater its enthusiasm the more bitter and painful were the deceptions of this nation.

It is a fact worthy of remark that these solemn promises of reform which, as is well known, have always remained a dead letter, have invariably had the effect of aggravating rather than improving the situation in Bulgaria. The abuses and excesses of all kinds became all the more pronounced, and the more the Bulgarians, driven by the current of progress which acts so powerfully on contemporary society, began to awaken, the more tyranny—jealous of that awakening—busied itself with inventing means for keeping them in their state of servitude. Though admitted by solemn treaties into the council of the European Powers, Turkey has not changed its system; on the contrary, the idea that the Christian Powers had undertaken to respect the independence and the territorial

integrity of the Ottoman Empire made it only all the more audacious in its manner of dealing with its oppressed nationalities.

The pretended Turkish reforms—at least as regards the Bulgarian nation—have never been more than a bitter derision thrown out very cleverly by the Sublime Porte in the face of those who had either counselled or called them forth. Laughing at every new decision, of which they know the source, the Turkish authorities in Bulgaria only respect the Sheri, which they interpret in their own way, but always to the prejudice of the Bulgarians.

These same authorities, on the rumour of any reforms, know how to arrange things in such a manner as to cleverly excite the Turkish fanaticism to the highest pitch, in order to neutralise beforehand any salutary effect that might be expected from those reforms.

It was just at the moment when the system of pretended reforms to be introduced in Turkey was extolled, that last year and this summer those atrocities were committed in Bulgaria, which have resounded so mournfully all over the world. Under pretext of a revolt—the real causes of which were indescribable abuses and incredible vexations, but in any case cleverly exaggerated, and used by pretended reformers and their agents —the Bulgarian nation has been attacked, and the endeavour has been made by devastating the country—by massacring, without distinction of age or sex, a large number of its inhabitants—by reducing the remainder to misery, to arrive at its total extermination. The work of the Bashi-Bazouks, armed by order of the Government, had no other aim.

The wholesale massacres of thousands of innocent and inoffensive human beings, the wholesale plunder, the burning of villages, the profanation of churches and schools, the rapes, the forced conversions to Islamism, the carrying away of women, girls, and boys, countless outrages, the arrests by hundreds of pretended guilty persons, the heavy chains, the bayonet stabs on the road, the unimaginable tortures in the prisons, the forced confessions, the hangings on a large scale, the systematic persecution of the school teachers, the insults offered to venerable priests, peaceable men and fathers of families, the ill-treatment of all who were more or less instructed, educated, or rich in Bulgaria —for the instigators of all these abominations wanted to kill not only the body, but also the soul of the Bulgarian nation—these are the means by which the Turkish Government has thought fit to let this nation feel the effects of that new era which was opening for the Empire.

Is it possible, after all this, to believe that this unfortunate nation is to be condemned to remain any longer under the degrading yoke which has weighed on it for five centuries? What crime against humanity has it committed to deserve this cruel fate in Europe?

Resigned and patient during its long martyrdom, the Bulgarian nation can endure it no longer; the limit of its misfortunes and sufferings has been passed; it is only half alive. As it does not believe that its bondage under the Turkish Government is one of the necessary conditions for the maintenance of the European equilibrium, or for the progress of the civilization of mankind, it addresses itself to the Christian Governments, which represent the civilized nations, for the purpose of soliciting from them a state of things which will allow it to live, not as a herd of beasts fit only to be shorn and even butchered, when it so pleases their masters, but as men enjoying rights imprescriptible and necessary for its intellectual, moral, and social development. Experience having clearly shown of what nature and of what efficacy the Turkish reforms can be, the Bulgarian nation, which by its historical conditions, its geographical position, its numerical importance, its qualities as an agricultural and industrial people, possesses all the requisite elements for marching successfully on the road of pacific progress, does not place any further confidence in those reforms. It therefore asks for the intercession of the Powers, protectors of the Christians in the East, in order to obtain for it the right of self-government for the future.

In other words, it asks for its perfect autonomy, with a national Government guaranteed by the Great Powers, the only way for the nation to live peaceably and to develop itself gradually. The autonomy of the Bulgarian nation, under such conditions, can alone render it capable of becoming by its own laws and forces one of the most active and persevering agents of progress and of civilization in Eastern Europe.

It would at the same time be the surest guarantee of a durable peace in the greater part of the Balkan Peninsula, and it alone can prevent in the future the recurrence of the atrocities which have justly aroused the indignation of the civilized world. The Bulgarian nation looks to the enlightened Governments of Europe for its pacific emancipation, imploring for this purpose their powerful advocacy, their benevolent

attitude, their efficacious intercession. It cherishes the hope that, after the cruel trials to which it has been subjected by its masters, Europe will not again put the latter in a position to drive it to acts of despair, to the sacrifice of its own existence.

These are the wishes, these are the demands which the Bulgarian nation humbly submits to the Christian Governments of Europe, in the firm hope that those enlightened and humane Governments, whatever may be the political considerations which inspire them in the Eastern question, will never commit the injustice of again entrusting the destinies of the Bulgarian nation to those who, having held it so many centuries under the yoke of bondage, have recently undertaken its total extermination.

To leave henceforth to the Turks the government of this nation would be to abandon it to the discretion of its own executioner.

Does Europe, does Christian and civilized Europe, wish this?

For the Bulgarian Nation,
Its two Bulgarian Delegates,
(Signed) D. ZANKOF.
MARCO D. BALABANOF.

Constantinople, August $\frac{2}{14}$, 1876.

No. 446.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the steps you have taken to induce the Porte to grant an armistice, as reported in your Excellency's despatch of the 10th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 447.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador told me this afternoon that he had received a telegram from his Government stating that they knew nothing of the alleged rejection by Servia of the terms of peace proposed by the Powers.

As regards the resumption of active operations by the Servian army Prince Gortchakow states that the Russian Consul-General at Belgrade had advised that hostilities should not be renewed, but that the Servian Government had answered that they could not accept a suspension of hostilities which was for four days only.

Russia, his Excellency says, cannot press the matter further, as she has from the first required the conclusion of a regular armistice, and is still requesting England to support this demand.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 448.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.**—*(Received September* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 29, 1876, *midnight.*

IN reply to my observation with regard to influence of Russian Agent on the Prince of Montenegro as referred to in Sir A. Buchanan's telegram of the 27th instant, Minister for Foreign Affairs communicated to me to-day following telegram from him, dated 27th instant:—

"Prince Nicholas has ordered suspension of hostilities without fixing a term, which he cannot do without previously consulting Prince of Servia. Prince of Montenegro wishes for a formal armistice. He considers suspension of hostilities disadvantageous to

* Repeated to Embassies.

Montenegro, as it prevents him dislodging Moukhtar Pasha from Montenegrin territory, where, during the suspension, he has without opposition fortified his position.

"Prince of Montenegro, on demand of Grand Vizier through Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has daily provisioned Turkish fortress of Medun and Russian ambulance, and has sent the medical requirements requested for it. Prince of Montenegro appears to wish to act moderately and humanely."

No. 449.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 30, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September* 30, 1876, 4·40 P.M.

THE Turkish Minister at this Court is about to telegraph to his Government to the effect that the granting of autonomy to the insurgent Provinces of Turkey will be the signal for Greece to promote insurrectionary movements in Thessaly, Epirus, and Crete.

A meeting is announced for to-morrow as to the reported decision of the Great Powers with regard to contributions, and to-day an article in a newspaper calls upon Greece to rise. I have informed Sir H. Elliot.

No. 450.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 30, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 30, 1876, 6·10 P.M.

I AM informed here that the Prince of Montenegro agrees to suspend hostilities until 2nd of October.

No. 451.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 1.)

(Extract.) *Bucharest, September* 24, 1876.

I BEG to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a Report from Acting Consul Brown, at Galatz, on the passage of Russian volunteers, furnished at my request.

The name of the General I believe to have been Simeon Novoselinoff, whom M. Bratiano mentioned to me as Vasilieff or Basilieff.

M. Jonesco yesterday corroborated to me the accuracy of the statement respecting the activity of the Russian Consul at Jassy in forwarding the volunteers; and he would appear to act as if in the avowed capacity of agent to the Committees in Russia.

I am inclined to doubt that the Russian Consul-General at this place is even indirectly promoting the movement, as the regular agents of the Committees are established at Bucharest, and there would be no necessity for interference on the part of the Agent and Consul-General.

Mr. Brown speaks of "officers, privates," &c., but I think he should probably have said "soldiers of the reserve," and, perhaps, with greater accuracy, "time-expired men."

Inclosure in No. 451.

Acting Consul Brown to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

Sir, *Galatz, September* 22, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of 19th instant, and in compliance thereto, I beg to inform you that the greater number of the so-called Russian volunteers have hitherto passed Ibraila by entering Moldavia by Sculeni to Jassy, by rail down to Barbosh, the station between Galatz and Ibraila, thence to Ibraila on to Bucharest; from whence, I believe, viâ Giurgevo or Craiova to Turno, and thence to the seat of war. Their arrival at Ibraila is generally at about half-past 2 in the morning, and if the number be large, an express train takes them immediately forward, otherwise they go forward after a few hours' delay.

* Repeated to Embassies.

Some 500 have come forward from Odessa by the Austrian Lloyds Company's steamboats to Galatz, transhipped into the river-boats of the same Company, and up river to their destination.

Last Thursday, the 14th instant, about 180, consisting of 20 officers, 60 non-commissioned, and 100 privates, with 8 lady hospital nurses, took that route.

On Monday last, the 18th instant, 520 passed outside Ibraila by rail, consisting of about 70 officers, 100 non-commissioned, and 350 soldiers, under the command of a certain General Corciacof (not Gorciacof), since when at least 600 more have passed up in detachments of 1 to 200.

The soldiers and non-commissioned officers are all in plain white caps and clothes, but have their uniforms as baggage. The officers are mostly in undress uniforms, having a loose white overcoat, but make no secret of their destination; their passage and funds being provided by the Russian Consuls at Jassy and Bucharest.

The last batches of soldiers were all armed with revolvers, officers carrying their swords wrapped up in oil-cloth covers, with their overcoats; no doubt the soldiers' other fire-arms have either passed on or were in the train as baggage with them, of which no account can be had here, but obtainable at Bucharest by the local authorities on change of train.

I have not heard of the passage of any large number of horses by rail, which are more likely to go forward in strings overland, in order not to attract attention. Two or three now and then have gone by rail.

On the whole there does not appear much sympathy with the Russians in Galatz or Ibraila, as the upper class are mostly foreigners engaged in trade, and the lower depending on them, having rather an antipathy through experience. The only exceptions are a few Bulgarians, Serbes, and Slaves, a few of the military and employés, and some would-be officials out of office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. BROWN.

No. 452.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 1.)

My Lord, *Rome, September* 28, 1876.

SIGNOR MELEGARI, Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated to me to-day that he considered this to be the most important crisis which had yet occurred in the Eastern difficulties, and that he had just telegraphed to the Italian Minister at Constantinople to say to the Porte that unless it accepted the English peace proposals and granted an armistice the existence of the Turkish Empire in Europe was in danger. His Excellency said that Russia would consent to no modification of the terms proposed by your Lordship, which had been fortunate enough to unite the Powers in common action, and that she continued to demand the armistice.

He had from the beginning earnestly desired that England should come forward and take the place which, by the concurrence of events, seemed to be hers, and hers alone. She had done so. Your Lordship's policy had been successful where success was most difficult, that is to say, in conciliating the views of the Guaranteeing Powers; but this point gained, Turkey still conceived it possible to withstand the tide, and it was again for your Lordship to undertake the task of convincing it that if it hesitated in accepting these proposals, it was inevitably lost.

He begged me to say that he hoped your Lordship would leave no measure untried to convince the Porte of the extreme peril in which it stands at this moment; and in order to show the imminence of the danger, his Excellency read to me a paper stating that General Soumarakow had been sent to Vienna to arrange with the Austro-Hungarian Government for an immediate joint occupation of Bosnia and Bulgaria, and also for the entry of the combined fleets into the Bosphorus in case the Porte "tergiversated" in granting the armistice and accepting the proposals for peace put forward by your Lordship. The paper went on to say that these measures were necessary in order to prevent a general massacre of Christians.

I asked his Excellency whence this intelligence came to him, and he replied, "from Livadia." He went on to say that England was alone able to avert the execution of this design by compelling the Porte to acquiesce in your Lordship's demands. I informed his Excellency that Sir Henry Elliot's instructions were that he could not press the urgency of the situation upon the Turkish Government too strongly, and that, indeed,

your Lordship had omitted no means of proving to the Turks the hopelessness of their position, but that in accordance with his Excellency's request I would at once inform your Lordship by telegraph of the substance of the information which he had given to me, and his desire that efforts to obtain the submission of the Porte should be redoubled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 453.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 1.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 30, 1876, midnight.*

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day, it seems to me certain that Count Andrassy has declined to occupy Bosnia, but that he is probably disposed to send Austrian vessels to the Bosphorus, as he spoke to me some days ago of such a measure being possibly expedient.

Baron Orczy said, however, that Count Andrassy would decide nothing till he had received the answer of the Porte.

No. 454.

Mr. Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 1, 9 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, October 1, 1876, 3 A.M.*

A BAND which must have come through Austria, and which is said to number 1,500 men, has suddenly appeared at Teshneh on the Brood road upon several occasions, endeavouring to force Christians to revolt, murdering those who refuse.

No. 455.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 1.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 1, 1876.*

I HAVE sent following to Belgrade:—

"Sir A. Kemball telegraphed last night as follows:—

"'Turks having repelled enemy's attack commenced this morning, assumed offensive, and, after hard fight, took and occupied crescent forming front of Servian position. Night prevented further advance. A counter-demonstration in the direction of Alexinatz was stopped, and not permitted to cross the river.'"

No. 456.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September 24, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to state that M. Durando came to me this morning, and said that he considered it his duty to place before me, without any reservation, the situation such as he viewed it, because Her Majesty's Government, having requested Italy to act as the medium of communication with Montenegro respecting the armistice, would naturally feel interest as to the manner in which he had carried out the instructions he had received from M. Melegari.

At first, he said, the Prince was very averse to any cessation of the war, and his disinclination for an armistice was stimulated by the action of M. Yonine, the Russian Agent, who did all in his power to prevent any such consummation. The Austrian and French Agents, however, added their representations to those of M. Durando, and the Prince, with the impetuosity which seems to be his characteristic, became of a sudden as enthusiastic for peace as he had been before averse to it.

M. Durando repeated to-day, but at much greater length, the substance of his con-

* Repeated to Embassies.

versation with the Prince as to the relations of Montenegro with England. His Highness did not conceal his dislike at having always had to deal with the Consuls at Scutari; and M. Durando says that it is clear that he would never be cordial with an Agent residing in Albania. I have already referred to this in a report I addressed to Sir Andrew Buchanan on the 5th instant, and I have the strongest conviction that M. Durando is correct.

M. Durando was good enough to say to the Prince, that, having been on intimate terms with me for some months, he felt sure that His Highness might venture to converse with me frankly, and might trust to my discretion and impartiality; and His Highness, upon that, begged him to arrange that, if possible, I should obtain the authorization of Her Majesty's Government to go to Cettigné.

In reporting this to your Lordship, I have only to add that, while I believe the visit of an English Agent to the Prince would be productive of much good, I have no pretension to recommend myself for such a mission; I would only venture to urge that the person so sent should not be a Consul residing in Turkish territory.

The early departure of the mail steamer does not allow me to lay before your Lordship by this post all that I have to say respecting the claims of Montenegro to territorial concessions, and the views of the Prince and of the foreign Agents with regard to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON

No. 457.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 23, 1876.

I COMMUNICATED to-day to M. de Giers the explanation of the term "local or administrative autonomy," as given in your Lordship's telegram to Sir H. Elliot of the 15th instant.

As this negotiation has been conducted directly between London and Livadia by Count Schouvaloff, M. de Giers was unable to state whether this explanation had been conveyed by Count Schouvaloff to Prince Gortchakow, but his Excellency stated his belief that it had been so understood by the Chancellor.

From telegrams which M. de Giers communicated to me, it appeared, however, that Count Schouvaloff had reported the phrase used by your Lordship as "a large measure of autonomy, local or administrative, for Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, without breaking the political link with Turkey" (the words were "sans relacher le lien politique avec la Turquie.")

There is a certain difference of meaning between the phrase reported by Count Schouvaloff and your Lordship's instructions to Sir H. Elliot, and I therefore thought it right to bring this difference to your Lordship's notice in my telegram of this day.

Prince Gortchakow must, however, have been in possession, through M. de Giers, on Saturday evening, of the distinct instructions sent by your Lordship on the 21st instant to Sir H. Elliot, which would have enabled his Highness to send the necessary instruction to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, to support the conditions of peace submitted by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 458.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 23, 1876.

AT an interview I had this morning I communicated to M. de Giers, in conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's telegram dated yesterday, the instructions forwarded on the 21st instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the basis of peace.

M. de Giers took a precise note of them, and said that he would immediately transmit them by telegraph to Prince Gortchakow.

I inquired of his Excellency whether Prince Gortchakow had been informed, and had approved of the additional phrase which your Lordship had introduced into the original conditions of peace at the suggestion of Count Andrassy.

M. de Giers stated that his latest intelligence from Livadia was dated on the 17th, and that it contained no reference to this subject.

His Excellency stated that his reports expressed the great satisfaction of the Emperor and of Prince Gortchakow, that Her Majesty's Government had taken the lead in the negotiations for peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 459.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 25, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive, yesterday afternoon, your Lordship's telegram dated Saturday midnight, refuting, on the authority of Sir A. Kemball, the reported breaches of the armistice by the Turkish forces.

I communicated this telegram to-day to M. de Giers, and requested his Excellency to transmit the intelligence it reported to Prince Gortchakow, which he promised to do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 460.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 25, 1876.

THE whole tone of the Russian press in regard to England has completely changed, and it has become much more friendly.

No. 461.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 26, 1876.

YOUR Lordship's attention will probably have been drawn to the publication by a French newspaper "La France" of a pretended offensive and defensive Treaty between Germany and Russia bearing the signatures of Princes Bismarck and Gortchakow.

M. de Giers has denied categorically the existence of any such Treaty, and declares it to be a forgery and a mystification.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship articles from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" (the semi-official organ) and from the "Agence Russe," confirming the apocryphal nature of this pretended Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 462.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 26, 1876.

THE proclamation by the Servian army of Prince Milan Obrenovich as King of Servia has taken the Imperial Government by surprise, and is strongly condemned not only in the official circles, but generally by the Russian press.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a series of articles reproduced by the "Agence Russe" disapproving the act of the Servian army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 463.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 27, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive this afternoon at 5 P.M. your Lordship's telegram of this date, stating that Sir A. Kemball had reported that the Servians had recommenced hostilities.

I received at the same time your Lordship's telegram from Mr. Consul-General White stating that Prince Milan had refused to send orders to the Servian Commanders for the prolongation of the suspension of hostilities.

I accordingly wrote immediately a private note to M. de Giers, of which I annex a copy, inclosing the telegram from Sir A. Kemball, informing him of the refusal of Prince Milan, and requesting him to telegraph the facts as reported to Prince Gortchakow, and to beg his Highness to telegraph urgently to Prince Milan to engage him to send orders to the Servian Commander to remain on the defensive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

P.S.—Since addressing this despatch to your Lordship I have received a note in reply to mine from M. de Giers, a copy of which I beg to inclose.

A. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 463.

Lord A. Loftus to M. de Giers.

Mon cher Sénateur, *St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{15}{27}$ *Septembre,* 1876.

JE m'empresse de mettre sous les yeux de votre Excellence le ci-joint télégramme qui rapporte le renouvellement des hostilités par les Serbes.

Je viens d'apprendre également que le Prince Milan a refusé d'envoyer les ordres au Commandant Serbe de rester sur le défensif.

Je vous prie d'informer le Chancelier de ces faits, et de demander à Son Altesse de télégraphier au Prince Milan, l'invitant instamment à envoyer les ordres au Commandant-en-chef Serbe de maintenir le défensif, et de ne pas recommencer les hostilités.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) A. LOFTUS.

(Translation.)

My dear Senator, *St. Petersburgh, September* $\frac{15}{27}$, 1876.

I HASTEN to place before your Excellency the accompanying telegram, which reports the renewal of hostilities by the Servians.

I have also learnt that Prince Milan has refused to send orders to the Servian Commander to remain upon the defensive.

I have to request that you will inform the Chancellor of these facts, and ask his Highness to telegraph to Prince Milan to urge him to order the Servian Commander-in-chief to remain on the defensive, and not to recommence hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. LOFTUS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 463.

M. de Giers to Lord A. Loftus.

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{15}{27}$ *Septembre,* 1876.

JE ne manquerai pas de communiquer par le télégraphe au Chancelier le contenu du télégramme que votre Excellence me transmet sur le renouvellement des hostilités par les Serbes et que j'ai l'honneur de lui restituer ci-près.

Jusqu'à présent aucune information à ce sujet nous est parvenue ici, par contre nous avons les plaintes des Serbes sur la non-observation de la suspension d'armes par les Turcs, et sur le mouvement de leurs troupes vers la Jankova Klissoura. Espérons que bientôt ces petits détails n'auront plus aucun intérêt.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

(Translation.)

St. Petersburgh, September $\frac{15}{27}$, 1876.

I WILL not fail to communicate to the Chancellor by telegraph the contents of the telegram which your Excellency has sent to me relative to the recommencement of hostilities by the Servians, and I have the honour to return it to you herewith.

At present no information on this subject has reached us. On the other hand, we have received Servian complaints of the non-observance of the suspension of arms by the Turks, and of the movement of their troops towards Jankova Klissoura. Let us hope that these little details may very soon lose all their importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GIERS.

No. 464.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 27, 1876.*

THE violence of the language of the Russian press on Eastern affairs, of late chiefly directed against England and Austria, has engaged the attention of the Imperial Government, and has led to an article of caution (of which I have the honour to annex a copy) being inserted in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has produced the desired effect.

There has been for some time past a polemic going on between several organs of the Russian and German press, denoting no friendly feeling on the part of either.

I have the honour to inclose articles from the "Agence Russe" in proof of the discordant feeling between the press of the two countries, and contrasting it with the attitude and feeling of the two Governments. The "Agence Russe" further states that this polemic, which was as inopportune as dangerous, has been happily brought to an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 464.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{\text{August } 22}{\text{September } 3}$, 1876.

LES JOURNAUX RUSSES.—Notre presse s'occupe assez peu depuis quelque temps de questions intérieures; la politique extérieure, ou, pour parler plus correctement, les affaires d'Orient, constituent sa préoccupation presque exclusive. Elle suit en cela, on ne saurait le contester, l'opinion publique, dont les pulsations ont rarement trahi une pareille harmonie; tout au moins nous faudrait-il remonter à l'année 1863 pour constater une unanimité de cette force et encore y eut-il alors des opposants, tandis qu'il n'y en a pas trace aujourd'hui.

La lutte héroïque des Slaves du Sud, les souffrances des populations Chrétiennes soumises aux iniquités du fanatisme Turc, n'expliquent que trop cette vivacité du sentiment que nous venons de rappeler, cette unanimité d'élan en faveur de co-religionnaires opprimés ou engagés dans une lutte où se joue leur existence, non-seulement nationale et politique, mais encore matérielle.

Nous ne saurions donc nous étonner si la presse, entraînée par ce mouvement, se laisse aller au courant et porte ainsi à l'étranger les traces de l'agitation qui s'est emparée de notre société depuis l'explosion de la guerre en Serbie. Nous nous expliquons moins l'attitude de quelques-uns de nos confrères qui vont jusqu'à s'attaquer à des nations amies, à des Gouvernements alliés, par la seule raison que l'on ne rencontre pas chez eux, ou que l'on croit ne pas y rencontrer, à l'égard de la cause des Chrétiens d'Orient, des sympathies aussi ardentes que celles dont on est animé soi-même. Il y a là un écart regrettable, nous dirions l'abus, conscient ou non, d'un sentiment généreux et respectable en soi, mais qui tourne à l'intolérance dès qu'on l'exagère. De pareilles exagérations ne font honneur ni au jugement ni à la sagacité politique de certains de nos journaux, en ce qu'elles doivent nuire à la cause même qu'on désire servir.

(Translation.)

THE RUSSIAN NEWSPAPERS.—FOR some time past our press has occupied itself but little with internal questions; external politics, or to speak more correctly, Eastern affairs, preoccupy it almost exclusively. In that respect it undoubtedly follows public opinion, whose pulsations have rarely shown such complete harmony; we must go back at least as far as the year 1863 to witness so strong a unanimity, and even then there was some opposition, while now there is not a trace of any.

The heroic struggle of the Southern Slavs, the sufferings of the Christian population subject to the misdeeds of Turkish fanaticism, only too well explain this keenness of feeling which we have just mentioned, this unanimous impulse in favour of oppressed co-religionists who are oppressed or engaged in a struggle for, not only their national and political, but even their material, existence.

We cannot, then, be surprised if the press, carried away by this movement, goes with the stream, and thus spreads abroad the traces of the agitation which has seized on our society since the breaking out of the Servian war. We are less able to understand the attitude of some of our contemporaries who go so far as to attack friendly nations and allied Governments, merely for the reason that they do not find, or that they think they do not find, in them sympathies for the cause of the Christians in the East as ardent as those by which they themselves are animated. This is a regrettable excess, we would even say an abuse, whether conscious or not, of a feeling, generous and respectable in itself, but which inclines to intolerance as soon as it is exaggerated. Such exaggerations do honour neither to the judgment nor to the political sagacity of some of our newspapers, in that they must injure the very cause which they aim at serving.

No. 465.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 27, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying note, received from the Servian Minister of Foreign Affairs on the subject of the armistice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 465.

M. Ristitch to Consul-General White.

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, le* 22 *Septembre*, 1876.

AYANT précédemment appelé votre attention sur la manière dont l'armée Turque respecte l'armistice, je crois devoir vous signaler encore les faits suivants :—

Mardi dernier, 19 courant, les Turcs ont attaqué un détachement de l'armée de l'Ibar à Dikava, et un autre détachement, qui se trouve campé à Yagochnitza, a été assailli hier 21 courant : les deux attaques des Turcs ont été repoussées.

En outre, le Colonel Uzum Mircovitch, Commandant du Corps de la Drina, mande que des troupes Turques venant de Bellina ont pénétré hier 21 courant, dans l'île Serbe de Bouyouklia, et s'y sont retranchées sans que les troupes Serbes aient cru devoir faire résistance à cause de l'armistice. Celui-ci datant du 16 Septembre, ces deux derniers mouvements offensifs ont eu lieu par conséquent cinq jours après sa déclaration.

En portant ces faits à votre connaissance, je saisis, &c.,

(Signé) J. RISTITCH.

(Translation.)

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, September* 22, 1876.

HAVING previously called your attention to the manner in which the Turkish army observes the armistice, I think it right to inform you of the following facts :—

On Tuesday last, the 19th instant, the Turks attacked a detachment of the army of the Ibar at Dikava, and another detachment, which is encamped at Yagochnitza, was attacked yesterday, the 21st instant : both these Turkish attacks were repulsed.

Again, Colonel Uzum Mircovitch, Commander of the Drina Corps, reports that Turkish troops, coming from Bellina, forced their way yesterday, 21st instant, into the

Servian island of Bouyouklia, and have entrenched themselves there, the Servian troops not making any resistance on account of the armistice.

As the latter began on September 16, these two last offensive movements took place consequently five days after its declaration.

In informing you of these facts, I avail, &c.,

(Signed) J. RISTITCH.

No. 466.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 27, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter addressed to myself and to my Italian colleague, Count Joannini, by M. Ristitch, giving the reasons why the Servian Government declines issuing orders to their Commanders similar to those sent by the Porte, and whilst willing to accept an armistice, rejects this sort of arrangement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 466.

M. Ristitch to Consul-General White.

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, le* 26 *Septembre,* 1876.

J'AI eu l'honneur de vous informer à plusieurs reprises dans les entretiens que j'ai eu avec vous que la suspension des hostilités dans la forme que la Sublime Porte lui a donnée n'était pas praticable, vu qu'une ligne de démarcation et une zone neutre n'ont pas été déterminées, et que cette circonstance présentait des inconvénients particuliers sur le théâtre de la guerre, surtout dans la vallée de la Morava où les deux armées en présence se trouvent à une demi-portée de fusil l'une de l'autre.

J'ai eu aussi l'honneur de vous notifier à la date des 6, 7, et 10 Septembre (v.s.), que l'armée Turque n'a cessé de violer sur tous les points la trêve consentie des deux parts ; et que par conséquent il serait désirable de remplacer cette suspension d'armes illusoire par un armistice réel conclu dans les formes usitées en pareil cas.

A la suite de mes notifications, vous avez eu la bonté, M. l'Agent, de porter à la connaissance de votre haut Gouvernement le désire exprimé par le Gouvernement Princier de voir cette situation précaire faire place à un armistice en règle. Le Gouvernement Princier regrette que la Porte n'ait pas cru devoir prendre en considération les inconvénients qui sans doute lui ont été signalés, et qu'elle se soit bornée, suivant la communication que vous avez bien voulu me faire, à prolonger pour une semaine encore sur le théâtre de la guerre un état de choses peu apte à prévenir les collisions entre les deux armées et une effusion de sang inutile.

Mu par les considérations que je viens de vous exposer, je prends la liberté de vous prier, M. l'Agent, de vouloir bien faire connaître à qui de droit que le Gouvernement Princier regrette de ne pouvoir donner des ordres pour prolonger une situation démontrée par l'expérience comme impraticable et qui a pris fin le $\frac{12}{24}$ du mois courant, tout en appelant de tous ses vœux la conclusion d'un armistice en règle revêtu des conditions voulues et d'une durée suffisante pour conduire au but qu'on se propose d'atteindre.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) RISTITCH.

(Translation.)

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, September* 26, 1876.

IN the conversations which I have had with you, I have several times informed you that the suspension of hostilities in the form given to it by the Sublime Porte was impracticable, since a line of demarcation and a neutral zone have not been laid down; and that this circumstance gave rise to very great inconvenience on the scene of action, especially in the valley of the Morava, where the two hostile armies are within half a musket shot of each other.

I had also the honour to inform you, under date of the 6th, 7th, and 10th of September (o.s.), that the Turkish army has not ceased to violate on every point the truce agreed to by the two sides; and that, consequently, it was desirable to substitute

for this illusory suspension of arms a real armistice concluded in the forms usual in such cases.

In consequence of my notifications, you had the goodness, M. l'Agent, to inform your Government of the wish expressed by the Prince's Government to see this precarious state of things replaced by a regular armistice. The Prince's Government regrets that the Porte has not thought fit to take into consideration the inconveniences which have, doubtless, been pointed out to it, and that it should have confined itself, according to the communications which you have made to me, to prolonging for another week a state of things little calculated to prevent collisions between the two armies, or to stop a useless effusion of blood.

Influenced by the considerations which I have pointed out to you, I beg you, M. l'Agent, to make known in the proper quarter that the Prince's Government regrets that it is unable to give orders for the prolongation of a situation which experience has proved to be impracticable, and which terminated on the $\frac{12}{24}$th instant, but it is, at the same time, most anxious for the conclusion of a regular armistice, based upon proper principles and of sufficient length to enable us to reach the end which we have in view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RISTITCH.

No. 467.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(Extract.) *Berlin, September 27, 1876.*

SINCE Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Macdonell, informed your Lordship by last messenger that the German Government continued to give their full and cordial support to the policy of Her Majesty's Government at Constantinople, I have not, in conversation with the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, obtained any information which could add to that already possessed by your Lordship.

The Emperor, as well as the Royal Family, are absent, attending manœuvres, and the Chancellor does not intend to return to Berlin before the end of October.

The attitude of the German Government in regard to Turkey is reserved and expectant, as it has been from the outset; and in regard to England, Prince Bismarck is ready to support the efforts of Her Majesty's Government in the general interest of peace and progress.

No. 468.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 29 Septembre, 1876.*

AINSI que je vous en ai informé par mes précédents télégrammes, les Serbes ont repris les hostilités. Il résulte d'un récent télégramme du Serdar-Ekrem que les Serbes ont attaqué nos troupes sur toute la ligne devant Alexinatz. Le combat a duré 12 heures consécutives, et il a eu pour résultat final la défaite des Serbes, qui ont pris la fuite en laissant sur le champ de bataille un grand nombre de morts et de blessés. Abdi Pacha ajoute que les Serbes en demandant une suspension des hostilités n'avaient d'autre but que de concentrer sans dérangement toutes leurs forces disponibles à Alexinatz.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 29, 1876.*

AS I have informed you by my previous telegrams, the Servians have resumed hostilities. It appears, from a recent telegram of the Serdar-Ekrem, that the Servians have attacked our troops before Alexinatz along the whole line. The battle lasted, without an interval, for twelve hours, and ended in the defeat of the Servians, who took to flight, leaving on the field of battle a great number of dead and wounded. Abdi Pasha adds, that the Servians, in asking for an armistice, had only in view the unmolested concentration at Alexinatz of all their available forces.

No. 469.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 29 Septembre,* 1876.

LE Gouvernement Serbe a informé les Agents des Puissances à Belgrade que les troupes Impériales auraient violé la suspension d'hostilités le 17 à Alexinatz et à Jaukova-Klissura, le 19 à Javor, et le 21 à Yavor et sur la Drina. Par cette communication, M. Ristich a voulu intervertir les rôles et rejeter la responsabilité sur nous. Ainsi que je vous en ai informé par mes télégrammes d'hier et des jours précédents, ce sont les Serbes qui ont repris leur attitude d'agression et ont attaqué les troupes Impériales sur toute la ligne. Je ne saurais donc ne pas protester formellement contre les assertions du Gouvernement Serbe.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 29, 1876.

THE Servian Government has informed the Agents of the Powers at Belgrade that the Imperial troops violated the suspension of hostilities on the 17th at Alexinatz and at Jankova-Klissura, on the 19th at Javor, and on the 21st at Yavor and on the Drina. By this communication M. Ristitch has sought to change parts with us, and throw the responsibility upon us. As I have already informed you by my telegram of yesterday and in previous ones, it is the Servians who have resumed the offensive and have attacked the Imperial troops all along the line. I am, therefore, forced to protest formally against the assertions of the Servian Government.

No. 470.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 30 Septembre,* 1876.

L'AMBASSADEUR d'Angleterre dans ses communications relativement aux réformes à accorder, insistant sur l'expression d'autonomie administrative, nous ne pouvons nous empêcher de faire remarquer que l'adoption de cette expression pour caractériser le nouveau régime à appliquer aux Provinces de l'Empire rencontre chez nous des obstacles insurmontables. Indépendamment de ce que cette expression présente de vague et d'indéfini pour nous, elle offre l'inconvénient très-sérieux de provoquer des analogies et des commentaires, qui, surtout dans ce moment-ci, alarment en général les esprits même les plus modérés et les plus conciliants. Le Gouvernement Impérial, s'inspirant des désirs généreux et éclairés de Sa Majesté, qui ont trouvé leur haute expression dans l'Hatt Impérial que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous communiquer, est préparé, en considération des circonstances actuelles, à élaborer un ensemble de réformes que je vous ferai connaître incessamment en détail. Lorsque l'ensemble de cette nouvelle mesure sera connu, nous sommes convaincus que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique reconnaîtra qu'il est de nature à fournir aux populations le contrôle désiré sur les employés du Gouvernement et à les garantir contre des actes d'autorité arbitraire. La pensée des Puissances se trouvera ainsi réalisée de fait, et elle aura reçu immédiatement les développements pratiques qu'elle comporte. Nous espérons que, dans son esprit de haute loyauté, son Excellence Lord Derby voudra tenir compte de l'empressement que le Gouvernement Impérial a mis à conformer son attitude et ses résolutions aux conseils amicaux qu'il a bien voulu nous faire parvenir. Lorsque l'accord existe sur le fond, nulle question de mots ne peut présenter de difficultés; et si les considérations que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous exposer plus haut empêchent le Gouvernement Impérial de déclarer qu'il admettra comme principe de son administration provinciale l'autonomie locale, il n'hésite pas à affirmer que les nouvelles réformes qu'il donne à ses Provinces sont de nature à assurer dans la pratique aux populations les bienfaits et les avantages qu'on aurait pu sûrement en attendre. Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien s'exprimer dans ce sens à son Excellence Lord Derby, et de tâcher de convaincre sa Seigneurie qu'entre sa pensée et celle du Gouvernement Impérial il ne peut y avoir qu'une simple différence de mots qu'il nous est impossible d'accepter.

Les réformes decrétées par le Gouvernement Impérial seront notifiées officiellement aux Représentants des Puissances Médiatrices; et cette notification, en mettant ainsi les

Puissances amies à même de constater la réalisation de leurs vœux, dispensera d'avoir recours à la formalité d'un Protocole dont les inconvénients sont trop évidents pour que j'aie besoin d'y insister.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 30, 1876.

AS the English Ambassador, in his communications relating to the concession of reforms, insists upon the phrase "administrative autonomy," we are compelled to observe that the adoption of this phrase as descriptive of the new form of Government to be applied to the Provinces of the Empire presents insuperable objections in our eyes. Independently of the vagueness and want of precision which this phrase seems to us to present, it has, further, the very serious inconvenience of giving rise to analogies and commentaries, which, more especially at the present moment, universally alarm the minds of all, even the most moderate and conciliatory. The Imperial Government, animated by the generous and enlightened wishes of His Majesty, which were fully explained in the Imperial Hatt, which I had the honour of communicating to you, is prepared, in view of present circumstances, to elaborate a scheme of reforms, the details of which I will, ere long, communicate to you. When this new scheme is made public, we are convinced that the Government of Her Britannic Majesty will allow that it is of such a nature as will give the people the desired control over the Government officers, and secure them from acts of arbitrary authority. The idea of the Powers will thus be practically realized, and will receive immediately all the practical developments which are possible.

We trust that Lord Derby, with his loyal feelings, will take into consideration the alacrity with which the Imperial Government has brought its attitude and resolutions into conformity with the friendly advice which he has given us. When an agreement exists as to the substance, no question of words can present any difficulty; and, though the considerations which I have dwelt upon above prevent the Imperial Government from declaring that it will accept local autonomy as the principle of its provincial administration, yet it does not hesitate to assert that the new reforms which it grants to its Provinces are such as will practically secure to the people all the benefits and advantages which might be expected to flow from the principle in question.

I request your Excellency to speak to his Excellency Lord Derby in this sense, and you will endeavour to convince his Lordship that between his idea and that of the Imperial Government there is only a difference as to words, but that on this point we cannot give way.

The reforms decreed by the Imperial Government will be officially notified to the Representatives of the mediating Powers; and this notification, by enabling the friendly Powers to convince themselves of the realization of their wishes, will obviate the necessity of having recourse to the formality of a Protocol, the inconveniences of which mode of proceeding are so palpable that I need not further develop them.

No. 471.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 1, 1876, 9 P.M.

I LEARN from Mr. Monson that he has been told by Prince Nicholas' Secretary that his Highness considers himself bound not to separate his action from that of Servia; but that he is decidedly in favour of peace, which the Principality in general would not oppose, if territorial concessions should be obtained by it.

It is hoped that the influence of Great Britain, on which great reliance is placed, will be exerted in this sense. Continuation of war is said to be urged by the Russian Government.

No. 472.

The Viceroy of India to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Simla, October* 2, 1876.

THE Mahommedans at Bombay and Peshawur have had important meetings expressive of sympathy with Turkey.

The Bombay Mahommedans have drawn up a petition to the Queen thanking the English Government for previous feeling, and requesting Her Majesty not to desert cause of Sultan.

I hear that similar meetings are about to be held in Calcutta.

No. 473.

M. Contostavlos to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, October* 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le* 1 *Octobre,* 1876.

AUJOURD'HUI un grand meeting d'environ 8,000 personnes a été tenu dans l'emplacement du Pnyx, sous la présidence du Recteur de l'Université, qui, après avoir défini le but de la réunion, a donné successivement la parole aux Professeurs de l'Université, Papparigopoulo, Cokkinos, et Damalas. A la suite des discours prononcés M. Damalas a formulé les motions suivantes :—

1. Que le Gouvernement fasse aux Grandes Puissances les représentations nécessaires au sujet de l'injustice projetée à l'égard de nos frères en Turquie.

2. Que le Gouvernement avise aux mesures les plus actives pour organiser les forces militaires de terre et de mer du pays. Cette motion sera présentée au Gouvernement par une commission composée du Métropolitain, du Recteur, des Maires d'Athènes et du Pirée, et de M. Damalas, en qualité de secrétaire.

(Translation.)

Athens, October 1, 1876.

A GREAT meeting of about 8,000 persons was held to-day on the Pnyx; the Rector of the University presided, and having explained the object of the meeting, he called upon the Professors of the University, Papparigopoulo, Cohkinos, and Damalas to speak. After the speeches, Damalas proposed the following resolutions :—

1. That the Government be requested to make the necessary representations to the Great Powers on the subject of the injustice with which our brethren in Turkey are threatened.

2. That the Government be requested to take active steps for the organization of the military and naval forces of the country.

These resolutions will be presented to the Government by a Commission composed of the Metropolitan, the Rector, the Mayors of Athens and the Piræus, and M. Damalas, in his capacity of secretary.

No. 474.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2, 2·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 2, 1876, 12 *noon.*

I HAVE sent following to Belgrade :—

"Sir A. Kemball telegraphed last night as follows :—'Turks have withdrawn during the night from the crescent they had won, which was again occupied by the enemy. All quiet to-day. Usual shells.'"

No. 475.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1876.

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram from his Government, dated the 30th ultimo, and stating that, as your Excellency, in your communications on the subject of the reforms to be granted to the disturbed provinces, had insisted on the expression "administrative autonomy," the Porte felt bound to observe that there were insurmountable obstacles to the use of that term as characterizing the new system of government to be introduced. Independently of the vague and indefinite nature of the words, they were open to the further objection that they provoked analogies and commentaries, which, especially at this moment, would cause general alarm in Turkey, even among those of the most moderate and conciliatory disposition.

The Turkish Government state that they are prepared, in consideration of the present state of affairs, to draw up a scheme of reform, which they feel convinced will be admitted by the British Government to be calculated to afford to the population the desired control over the Government officials, and to guarantee them against arbitrary acts of authority.

The desire of the Powers will thus be practically carried into effect. The Porte hopes that Her Majesty's Government will recognize its readiness to comply with the friendly advice of England, and that, as there is an agreement in substance, no difficulty will be made about a difference of words.

The reforms decreed by the Turkish Government would be officially notified to the mediating Powers, and this notification, by informing the Powers of the realization of their wishes, would do away with the necessity for having recourse to the formality of a Protocol, the inconvenience of which, the telegram adds, are too evident to require mention.

Musurus Pasha went on to speak to me in the sense of this communication, but I told his Excellency that I thought it useless to discuss the subject further. The terms proposed to the Porte had been settled and agreed to by the six Powers in concert, and it was impossible now to attempt to modify them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 476.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1876.

M. MARCO D. BALABANOW and M. D. Zankoff, two Bulgarian gentlemen introduced to me by Mr. Hugh Birley, M.P., called upon me at the Foreign Office this day and presented a memorial which they desired should be laid before the Queen, together with an explanatory memorandum. They at the same time said that they desired to express the thanks of the Bulgarian people for the sympathy which they had received from the British Government and nation.

I told them that Her Majesty's Government would do all they could to assist the efforts of those who were taking relief to the distressed inhabitants of Bulgaria; Her Majesty's Government would also use their best efforts for the restoration of tranquillity in the Province, and for the prevention of the recurrence of such lamentable events as those which had recently occurred there.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 477.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1876.

BARON VON DEN BRINCKEN informed me to-day that the German Ambassador at Constantinople had telegraphed on the 30th ultimo that, in consequence of disagreement among the Turkish Ministers, the assembly of the Council had been deferred till the next day.

The Ambassador had added that the British and Austrian Ambassadors had urged the acceptance of the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, but had received an unfavourable reply, and that it has been the general impression that the Great Council would reject the proposals upon the two points of autonomy and the armistice.

A second telegram from the Ambassador, dated yesterday, had, according to Baron von den Brincken, announced the further postponement of the meeting, and had stated that, though the proposals were still under the consideration of the Ministers, their rejection appeared to be certain.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 478.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October* 3.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 20 *Septembre*, 1876.

JE m'empresse de vous transmettre, ci-jointe, une copie du Rapport que le Dr. Alexandre Zoéros, Directeur du Service Sanitaire de l'Armée de Podgoritza, a présenté aux autorités militaires relativement aux horreurs et aux atrocités exercées par les Montenégrins sur nos soldats.

En me référant à ce sujet aux instructions contenues dans mon télégramme du 14 Septembre, je ne puis m'empêcher d'ajouter combien ces traitements inqualifiables, que les Montenégrins font subir à nos soldats, sont de nature à encourir le blâme de l'opinion publique.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, September* 20, 1876.

I HASTEN to forward to you herewith a copy of the report which Dr. Alexander Zoéros, Director of the Sanitary Service of the Army of Podgoritza, has addressed to the military authorities on the subject of the horrors and atrocities practised on our soldiers by the Montenegrins.

With reference to my telegraphic instructions to you on this subject of 14th of September, I cannot refrain from adding that such indescribable cruelties, as those perpetrated by the Montenegrins on our soldiers, cannot fail to incur universal reprobation.

I request, &c.
(Signed) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 478.

Report by Dr. Zoéros.

Excellence,

PARMI les blessés qui, à la suite du combat de Lundi, $\frac{2}{14}$ Août, sont entrés à l'hôpital central et aux ambulances que j'ai l'honneur de diriger, il y en a un certain nombre qui ont été horriblement mutilés par les Monténégrins. Ainsi, il y en a qui ont le nez coupé, d'autres le nez et les lèvres, et d'autres le nez, les lèvres, et l'une ou les deux oreilles, en dehors des autres blessures qu'ils portent sur les autres parties du corps.

Ayant le cœur plein d'horreur et d'indignation que tout homme civilisé ressentira certainement en présence de ces preuves d'extrême barbarie, je m'empresse de porter ces faits à la connaissance de votre Excellence, en y joignant les noms des malheureux qui ont été mutilés le plus :—

Mehmed Yonour d'Angora, 3e Chasseurs du 2e Corps, 2e Compagnie, 4e Caporal ;
Mehmed Ali, Bolo, 3e Chasseurs du 2e Corps, 2e Compagnie, 8e Caporal ;
Mehmed Osman de Tchangara, 3e Chasseurs du 2e Corps, 2e Compagnie, 8e Caporal ;
Ali Caplan de Tiran, 3e Corps d'Armée, 1er Régiment, 4e Bataillon, 2e Compagnie, 6e Caporal ;
Osman Chahine de Croupitza, 3e Corps, 1er Régiment, 2e Bataillon, 5e Compagnie ;
Suleiman Mustapha d'Adana, 5e Corps, 5e Régiment, 2e Bataillon, 8e Compagnie, 4e Caporal ;
Ahmed Ali, Beyrouth, 5e Corps, 2e Régiment, 1er Bataillon (Rédif), 3e Compagnie, 5e Caporal ;
Guiritli Halil Ali de Hania, du Corps de Zeibeks ;
Taraboulouzlou Mehmed Ahmed, du Corps de Zeibeks ;
Suleiman Ali de Magnésie, du même Corps ;
Réchid Moussa de Bitlis, du même Corps.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.
Le Direcreur du Service Sanitaire de l'Armée de Podgoritza, Lieutenant-Colonel,
(Signé) ALEXANDRE ZOEROS.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

AMONG the wounded who, after the battle of Monday, $\frac{2nd}{14th}$ August, were admitted into the central hospital and the ambulances over which I have the honour to preside, there were a certain number who had been horribly mutilated by the Montenegrins. Thus, some had their noses cut off, others both noses and lips, and some noses, lips, and either one or both ears, in addition to further wounds upon other parts of the body.

Full of the horror and indignation which every civilized human being must feel when in presence of these proofs of extraordinary barbarity, I hasten to inform your Excellency of the facts, and I annex the names of the unfortunates who have been most severely mutilated:

(The names follow as above.)

I have, &c.
The Director of the Sanitary Service of the Army of Podgoritza, Lieutenant-Colonel,
(Signed) ALEXANDER ZOEROS.

No. 479.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 3.)

My Lord, *Rome, September* 30, 1876.

THROUGH the civility of a colleague I have received this morning a copy of the Russian document which Signor Melegari read to me on the 28th instant, as reported in my despatch of that date. I have the honour to inclose a copy of it herewith, because I am not aware whether it has been communicated textually to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 479.

Text of Russian Proposal.

Le 26 *Septembre*, 1876.

L'EMPEREUR a envoyé à Vienne le Général Soumarakoff, qui est chargé de proposer dans le cas où la Turquie tergiverserait sur l'armistice, la paix à des conditions dont conviendraient toutes les Puissances, intervention militaire de l'Autriche en Bosnie, de la Russie en Bulgarie, et entrée simultanée de toutes les escadres du Levant dans le Bosphore.

Ces mesures nous paraissent indispensables pour amener la Porte à la raison, empêcher la guerre et sauver les Chrétiens d'un massacre général.

(Translation.)

THE Emperor has sent General Soumarakoff to Vienna with instructions to propose a peace, should Turkey attempt to evade the armistice, upon conditions that would suit all the Powers, viz., Austrian military intervention in Bosnia, Russian military intervention in Bulgaria, and the joint entry of all the squadrons of the Levant into the Bosphorus.

These steps appear to us indispensable in order to bring the Porte to its senses, to prevent war and save the Christians from a general massacre.

No. 480.

M. Contostavlos to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, October* 3.)

(Extrait.) *Athènes, le* $\frac{11}{23}$ *Septembre*, 1876.

PAR ma dépêche de la semaine passée je vous ai informé que la Porte a envoyé quarante-cinq familles de Circassiens à Volo.

Indépendamment de cet envoi, le Vice-Consul de Volo me mande, ainsi que je vous l'ai télégraphié hier, que le bateau à vapeur Français de la Compagnie Fraissinet, vient d'y débarquer des colons Circassiens, dont il n'a pas pu vérifier le nombre. En me donnant la nouvelle du premier envoi, le Consul de Larisse ajoute dans son rapport que

tous ces Circassiens, y compris les enfants âgés de douze ans, sont armés de poignards et de fusils, et qu'il tient de la bouche des fonctionnaires Ottomans que la Porte est inébranlable dans son projet de colonisation.

Au moment où nous avons cessé de réclamer l'intervention généreuse des Grandes Puissances pour obtenir de la Porte l'engagement qu'elle n'enverrait pas de colons Circassiens dans les Provinces Grecques de l'Empire, et notamment en Epire, Thessalie et Macédoine, la Porte poursuit son plan de colonisation dans les contrées même voisines de la ligne frontière contrairement à la promesse formelle qu'elle nous a donnée à cet égard.

Cette manière d'agir de la Porte n'a pas besoin de commentaires.

Dès le début des complications actuelles de l'Orient, la Grèce a gardé vis-à-vis de la Porte une attitude mésurée qui lui a valu les souffrages de l'Europe.

Mais la conduite actuelle de la Porte, si elle y persiste, nous obligera de modifier cette ligne de conduite et d'aviser aux moyens que nous suggérera le soin de notre propre conservation.

En effet, nous ne saurions rester spectateurs impassibles d'une situation qui met en danger la sécurité de notre territoire, car il est notoire que les Circassiens, tribu essentiellement nomade, se transportent à de grandes distances en promenant partout le pillage et le brigandage.

D'autre côté, leur établissement dans les trois provinces précitées, constituant un danger permanent pour la vie et les biens de leurs habitants, ne saurait qu'entretenir dans les esprits en Grèce une agitation continuelle, à cause des liens multiples qui unissent les habitants des contrées sus-mentionnées avec ceux de la Grèce libre.

Toutes ces considérations, dont la gravité ne vous échappera pas, nous mettent dans la nécessité de réclamer de nouveau l'intervention efficace des Cabinets Européens, afin d'amener la Porte à renoncer à son plan de colonisation dans les Provinces Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman, et à nous donner des garanties contre le renouvellement de pareils actes qui ne pourraient qu'avoir les conséquences les plus funestes.

Veuillez donner connaissance de la présente à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères du Cabinet auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, et me rapporter le résultat de votre entretien.

(Translation.)

(Extract.) *Athens, September* $\frac{11}{23}$, 1876.

BY my despatch of last week I informed you that the Porte had sent forty-five Circassian families to Volo.

Apart from this batch of colonists, the Vice-Consul at Volo informs me, as I telegraphed to you yesterday, that the French steamer of the Frassinet Company has just landed further Circassian colonists, but he has been unable to verify their numbers. In informing me of the circumstances of the first dispatch of colonists, the Consul at Larissa adds in his report that all these Circassians, even including children twelve years old only, are armed with daggers and firearms, and that he has been told by the Ottoman officials themselves that the Porte is as determined as ever upon its projects of colonization.

At the very moment when we had ceased to invoke the generous intervention of the Great Powers with a view to obtain from the Porte a promise not to send Circassian colonists into the Greek provinces of the Empire, and especially into Epirus, Thessaly, and Macedonia, the Porte continues to carry out its plan of colonization in the districts even bordering on the frontier, in spite of the formal promise which it gave us on this subject.

These proceedings of the Porte speak for themselves.

From the outset of the present complications in the East, Greece has maintained towards Turkey an attitude so moderate as to win the approbation of Europe. But the present attitude of the Porte, if persisted in, will oblige us to modify this line of conduct, and to bethink ourselves of those things which appertain to the care of our self-preservation.

In fact, it would be impossible for us to remain unmoved spectators of a state of things which puts the security of our territory in danger; for it is a notorious fact that the Circassians, essentially a nomad tribe, move to great distances, carrying plunder and highway robbery everywhere on their path.

On the other hand, their establisment in the three aforesaid provinces constituting as it does a permanent danger to the lives and possessions of their inhabitants, could not but keep up a continual agitation in Greece on account of the multiplicity of common

ties which unite the inhabitants of the above-mentioned countries with those of the free provinces of Greece.

All these considerations, the importance of which cannot escape you, compel us once more to claim the powerful intervention of the European Cabinets, in order to induce the Porte to renounce its scheme for forming colonies in the Greek provinces of the Ottoman Empire, and to give us guarantees against the renewal of like acts, which could not fail to have the most disastrous consequences.

Please have the goodness to communicate this information to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Cabinet to whom you are accredited, and report to me the result of your interview.

No. 481.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 3.)

(Extract.) *Tunis, September* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to state that General Rustem has left for the capital to convey to Sultan Abdul Hamid the Bey's loyalty and allegiance to his Throne.

General Rustem was also the bearer of 700,000 fr., being the first instalment of the proceeds of the public subscription which his Highness had authorized in aid of the Turkish armies.

Although the Arab tribes generally pay the taxes with reluctance, yet, so soon as it became known to them that the subscription was on behalf of the Sultan, they largely contributed to it—a circumstance which abundantly proves that the population of this Regency recognizes the Sultan as their true and only Sovereign, to whom they owe aid and allegiance. The subscription has taken the character of a plébiscite, and is looked upon as such with satisfaction by the members of the Tunisian Government.

No. 482.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 3.)

(Extract.) *Ragusa, September* 26, 1876.

I ASKED M. Durando yesterday to authorize me to report to Her Majesty's Government all that he had been good enough to tell me respecting his negotiations with the Prince of Montenegro; and M. Durando, having said that he should be glad that I should make confidential use of his conversations with me, I will now do my best to lay the substance of them before your Lordship.

With regard to increase of territory, His Highness said that, as long as the Principality consisted of the rocks and stones of which it is at present composed, it would be impossible for him to inculcate among his people habits of industry and of agricultural employment. He did not want a large slice of the Herzegovina, which, for the most part, was not a whit more valuable than Montenegro. The plain of Nichsich, however, he did want, for it is fertile, and is an enclave in Montenegrin territory. He was more anxious for accessions of territory on the Albanian side—the Kutchi district, and the Ljescheke Poljé, down to the River Moratscha—were points that he was urgent about. In the plain of the Moratscha the land is fertile, and it is a vital point for Montenegro to be able to raise cereal crops in greater abundance, and not to be dependent upon grain supplies from Austria.

With regard to a sea-port, His Highness said that if he could only get Spitza the concession would be almost valueless, as there is no port there, nor any possibility of making one, and the mountains debar access on that side into the interior. The whole of the Suturman district, with the port of Antivari, ought to be ceded to him, if the cession was to be of any value. The Prince seemed, however, to be less anxious on this point; and the reason is that Austria is by no means desirous of giving Montenegro any other means of access to the sea than that afforded through her own ports in the Bocche di Cattaro. Count Andrassy has instructed Colonel Thömmel to remind the Prince that his subjects are not a seafaring people, and that a seaport is consequently not a necessity to them.

No. 483.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 2, 1876, 7 P.M.*

GENERAL Council has confirmed the reforms which are intended to apply to all the Provinces alike. The terms "Protocol" and "administrative autonomy" have been entirely rejected.

The Council has decided that the reforms in question shall be officially communicated by note to the Embassies.

No. 484.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 3, 1876.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Her Majesty's Government have learned with much regret that the Porte is likely to refuse the terms of peace which they have proposed. Your Excellency should warn the Porte that the alternative scheme of general reforms and a note is certain to be regarded as inadmissible, and that future terms of peace will undoubtedly be much more onerous, and will be pressed on the Porte very probably by force.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 485.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 3.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 3 Octobre, 1876.*

LE Monténégro ayant respecté la suspension d'armes dont le délai a expiré hier, le Gouvernement Impérial a décidé, sur la demande du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois, de donner aux Commandants des divisions militaires au Monténégro l'ordre de rester sur la défensive jusqu'à nouvel avis.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 3, 1876.*

MONTENEGRO having respected the suspension of arms, of which the term expired yesterday, the Imperial Government has decided, at the request of the Austro-Hungarian Government, to instruct the commanding officers of the military divisions on the Montenegrin frontier to remain on the defensive until further notice.

No. 486.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 3, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador left with me to-day a telegram which he had received from Prince Gortchakow, stating that the Russian Government had received from their Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople information to the effect that, in spite of the late representations made to the Porte by the Representatives of the six Powers, they persisted in their refusal to accede to the expression "autonomy," and to the demand for a Protocol, notwithstanding that the English Ambassador had communicated to the Porte the proposal of Russia to make use of material coercion.

The telegram proceeded to state that it would seem as though the Porte were desirous to push matters to the extreme in order to appear forced to yield to the pressure of the combined Powers, or to provoke a rupture between them when the moment should arrive for decisive action.

Meanwhile the situation between Mussulmans and Christians was very critical.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 487.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 16, 1876.

IT appears that, at the Grand Council assembled on Tuesday to consider the answer to be returned to the proposal of the Powers to mediate, parties were so closely balanced as to make the result extremely doubtful.

One of the persons who took part in it assures me that the scale was only turned by the reading of my letter of the 8th instant to Safvet Pasha, and by the recognition of the necessity of relying upon the countenance of Her Majesty's Government.

My informant also mentioned two facts which deserve to be noted.

Of the six Christian members of the Council, two were for the rejection of the mediation and for the continuance of the war, while the most strenuous advocates of its acceptance were the Chief of one of the sects of Dervishes, and Namik Pasha, who is considered the representative of the strict Mussulmans.

To the influence of these unexpected allies, the satisfactory decision of the Council is unquestionably due.

It is also a significant fact that the military members of the Council, who may be supposed to have been better informed than others on the real position of things, sided with the moderate party.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 488.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 20, 1876.

MR. BLUNT has reported great insecurity in the Province of Monastir, and a rumour that sixty villages in the district of Prisrend had been pillaged by Albanian irregulars returning from the seat of war.

On the receipt of the telegram to which he refers, I spoke to Safvet Pasha, to whom the Austrian Ambassador had communicated the report of his Consul at Monastir mentioning the rumour alluded to by Mr. Blunt. Safvet Pasha promised to send a Commission to investigate the circumstances, and has now received a report that there is no foundation whatever for the rumour of the plunder of the sixty villages, and that the province is in an orderly condition. Count Zichy is about to call upon his Consul for an explanation of the discrepancy between his statement and that of the Commission.

The Vice-Consulate at Monastir having been one of those suppressed within the last few years by Her Majesty's Government, I am dependent for information respecting that province upon that which is supplied to me by Mr. Blunt from Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 489.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 20, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a report from Mr. Sandison of the nomination of another Commission, armed with full powers from the Porte for the punishment of the persons guilty of the late excesses in Bulgaria.

It is composed of four Mussulman and four Christian members, among each of which there are men of courage and character not likely to lend themselves to an attempt to screen the guilty, or to conceal ascertained facts, although there are others in whom equal confidence cannot be felt.

The Porte professes anxiety that the truth respecting all that occurred in Bulgaria should be established, so as to leave no further doubt as to what really did occur, and as to the persons who are responsible for acts which are no longer denied.

It is asserted that Mr. Baring's Report contains inaccuracies, especially as regards the

numbers of the former inhabitants of the villages, and consequently of those who, by a comparison of them with those now to be found, are assumed to have fallen victims.

Although Mr. Baring stated that he had given his figures merely as approximate estimates from the best sources that he could obtain, it is desirable that he should have the opportunity of verifying or correcting them by any evidence that the Commissioners may procure.

His presence will, moreover, so greatly strengthen the position of such of the Commissioners as may wish to resist attempts on the part of others to attenuate the facts or to shelter the guilty, that I have desired him to go again to Philippopolis, and put himself in communication with the Turkish Commissioners.

Another consideration which makes the presence of Mr. Baring at the same time as the Commissioners desirable is, that it may encourage witnesses to speak who would otherwise avoid doing so.

Nothing is more difficult than to induce the peasants of this country to give evidence which they think will be displeasing to the authorities, and many of them will deny all cognizance of facts with which they are perfectly acquainted, even if speaking to a Turkish Commissioner intent upon remedying their grievances.

They fear persecution or annoyance from the petty officials or their Mussulman neighbours.

The same persons speaking to a foreigner, supposed to be collecting charges against the Turks, will frequently make statements for which sometimes there may perhaps be no foundation, but which, however true, cannot be accepted by the Commissioners as evidence unless they are repeated before them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 489.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Therapia, September* 17, 1876.

I BEG to inform your Excellency that the Porte has decided upon sending a fresh Commission into Bulgaria, with the view of instituting a closer inquiry into the circumstances connected with the Bulgarian atrocities.

The Commission, which is composed of four Turkish and as many Christian members, namely, Sadullah Bey, who is the President, Ismail Bey, Salim Effendi, Hamid Bey, Vassa Effendi, Blacque Bey, Ikiades Effendi, and Yovancho Effendi, is at the same time invested with full powers to bring to trial, and apply the severest penalty of the law to such of the Bashi-Bazouk leaders and persons in authority as may have rendered themselves guilty of the cruelties and atrocities which have been laid to their charge.

The Commission includes men who, it is believed, will do their duty, not only in punishing the guilty, but also in recommending to the Porte all measures that would lead to the improvement of the position and security of the Christians in those parts. Ismail Bey, with whom I had a long conversation on the subject, is even for suggesting and carrying out measures that would ensure the protection of the Christians against the return of the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians from the seat of war. But in presence of the feeling and irritation which are reported to prevail among the Mussulman armed population of the district of Philippopoli, it is not easy to say how far the Commission would venture to act with firmness and severity, unless it be supported by the presence of an efficient military force.

Your Excellency is aware what the police force for the whole district of Philippopoli actually amounts to. It is barely sufficient to maintain public tranquillity, which would doubtless become still less satisfactory with the return of the Bashi-Bazouks. Desperate characters like Achmet Agha, Tossoun Bey, &c., are not, therefore, likely not to take advantage of the situation, in order to provide for their safety, when they hear of the object of the Commission starting to-morrow, which, for the present at least, would have to rely entirely on its moral prestige for the accomplishment of its task.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 490.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 20, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the Reports of Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert upon the state of the district of Philippopolis, the substance of which were communicated to the Porte, with a strong recommendation that sufficient regular troops and police for the protection of the inhabitants should at once be despatched there.

Mr. Dragoman Marinitch's Report, herewith inclosed in copy, shows that no great disposition was shown to follow this recommendation; but I have since been told that a considerable number of troops have been sent to the district in question, although I cannot guarantee it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 490.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, September* 16, 1876.

TELEGRAM received too late for reply last night. Since my arrival here, reports of intended fresh massacres have been current, due to threats freely used by Mussulman population; but I have not information of any organized movement, and do not apprehend immediate danger. Mutessarif is an energetic man, alive to his responsibility, and says he can answer for peace being kept.

Turks, however, in state of great irritation, and, being all armed, an outbreak is possible.

Isolated outrages are frequent, and can only be stopped by considerable reinforcement of troops and police to disarm Turks. These troops should be natives of another province, not of Bulgaria.

Inclosure 2 in No. 490.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, September* 17, 1876.

GOVERNOR feels rather uneasy to-day at non-arrival of troops for which he applied. It is a custom amongst Turks of Philippopoli to fire pistols in streets on first night Ramazan, and he fears bloodshed might occur should he have none but half battalion Pomak troops now quartered here to depend on. He has telegraphed again to-day for reinforcements.

Ramazan begins Tuesday evening.

I heard this morning reports of further massacres being in preparation at Peshtera and Zaghra, and informed Governor, who has taken measures to ascertain truth.

Reinforcements should be sent chiefs towns of Sandjak, besides Philippopoli. Nothing like general massacre to be feared, but cases bloodshed on small scale possible, unless more troops sent at once.

Inclosure 3 in No. 490.

Report by Mr. Dragoman Marinitch.

(Extrait.) *Le* 19 *Septembre,* 1876.

JE me suis rendu au Seraskeriat pour entretenir Redif Pacha au sujet des sentiments de la population Musulmane du district de Philippopoli et lui démontrer la nécessité d'envoyer immédiatement des troupes pour prévenir des désordres. Son Excellence étant absent, j'ai, suivant vos instructions, demandé à voir le Grand Vézir. Son Altesse, auquel j'ai exposé le but de ma visite, m'a dit qu'on l'avait déjà entretenu à ce sujet; mais que les nouvelles reçues par la Sublime Porte étaient satisfaisantes, et que pour le moment rien n'engageait le Gouvernement à expédier des troupes du côté de Philippopoli.

Midhat Pacha a confirmé le langage du Grand Vézir, en ajoutant que la Commission qui venait de partir pour la Bulgarie était munie de pleins pouvoirs, et que l'on devrait s'adresser à elle, qui certainement ne manquerait pas d'expédier des forces là où le besoin réel se ferait sentir.

Comme le Grand Vézir m'a engagé de voir aussi Safvet Pacha, j'ai cru utile de communiquer les deux télégrammes du Consul de Philippopoli au Mustéchar, qui en parlera au Ministère pour la seconde fois.

(Translation.)

(Extract.) *September* 19, 1876.

I WENT to the Seraskeriat to confer with Redif Pasha on the subject of the feelings of the Mussulman population of the district of Philippopoli, and to point out to him the necessity of sending troops immediately to prevent disturbances. His Excellency being absent, I asked, according to your instructions, to see the Grand Vizier. His Highness, to whom I explained the object of my visit, told me that his attention had been already called to the subject, but that the news received by the Sublime Porte were satisfactory, and that for the moment nothing necessitated the Government sending troops in the direction of Philippopoli.

Midhat Pasha has confirmed the words of the Grand Vizier, adding that the Commission, which had just started for Bulgaria, was furnished with full powers, and that application should be made to them, and they certainly would not fail to send forces wherever they might be really required.

As the Grand Vizier requested me also to see Safvet Pasha, I have thought it advisable to communicate the two telegrams of the Consul of Philippopoli to the Mustechar, who will inform the Ministry of them for the second time.

No. 491.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 20, 1876.

ON the 16th instant I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship that the Austrian Ambassador had obtained a declaration from the Porte that orders had been sent to their military commanders to remain strictly on the defensive until the 25th instant.

I have now the honour to inclose a copy of this declaration which Count Zichy was requested by Safvet Pasha to communicate to his colleagues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 491.

Memorandum of Verbal Communication made by Safvet Pasha to Count Zichy, September 16, 1876.

LE Gouvernement Impérial pour dévancer les vœux qui lui ont été exprimés à donné ordre confidentiel à tous les commandants militaires de se tenir strictment sur la défensive et de ne prendre aucune mesure offensive, autant qu'ils ne seront pas attaqués par les troupes ennemies, jusqu'au $\frac{13}{25}$ du mois courant.

(Translation.)

THE Imperial Government, in order more fully to carry out the wishes which have been conveyed to it, has given a confidential order to all the commanding officers to keep strictly on the defensive up to the $\frac{13}{25}$th of the present month, and not to take any offensive measures so long as no attack is made by the enemy's troops.

No. 492.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 23, 1876.*

A MOVEMENT of discontent, which may become important, has been exhibited by the Armenians.

They have forwarded a statement of their grievances to the Porte, and I understand that they intend also to lay it before the Sultan.

Their complaints refer chiefly to the exactions to which they are subjected by the tax-gatherers, and to the depredations which they suffer from the Koords, against which the Government afford them no protection; and there can be no doubt that there are sufficient grounds for them.

Six months ago the Porte was warned that the license of the Koords, which was equally oppressive to the Turks and to the Armenians, was daily getting greater, and it was urged to take measures to repress it: but the usual apathy was shown, and although a Commission was appointed to inquire into the matter, nothing has been done.

A feeling of natural and well-justified discontent against the Government was the consequence, and it has been assiduously encouraged from without.

An Armenian gentleman of high position, but quite unconnected with the Government, told me this afternoon that, although the Porte was primarily responsible for the existing discontent among his countrymen, there was no doubt whatever that the present agitation had been provoked by Russian intrigues.

He repeated what I had before been told, that although the great majority of the intelligent and educated Armenians are strongly opposed to Russia, it is not so as regards the masses, who merely know the grievances that they now suffer from, and believe that any change would be for the better.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 493.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 23, 1876.*

WITH reference to the apprehension felt by the Greek Government lest Circassian colonists might be permitted by the Porte to establish themselves in the provinces bordering on Greece, I have the honour to state that the Porte has declared that it has no intention of sending any Circassians to Thessaly.

A note conveying this assurance was lately sent to the Hellenic Minister here, who, however, wishes some of its expressions to be still more explicit, and Safvet Pasha tells me that he is about to comply with the request of M. Coundouriotti, and make the communication as desired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have been informed by the Greek Minister that it is true that some Circassians had been sent to Volo, which Safvet Pasha had attempted to explain as the consequence of an omission on his part to inform the Minister of Police of the engagement taken by the Porte.

I shall take the first opportunity of impressing upon his Excellency the necessity of not sending any of these people to the neighbourhood of the Greek frontier, but the Porte is placed in a position of difficulty in assigning locations to the Circassians who continue to arrive from Russia.

H. E.

No. 494.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 23, 1876.*

ON Monday, a consultation of the most eminent men of the capital was held by order of the Sultan upon the state of his brother Murad.

Dr. Dickson, as well as the physicians of several other Embassies took part in it, and their unanimous opinion was that His Majesty's condition is hopeless, not only mentally, but physically.

He is stated to be well and kindly cared for, but he has to be continually watched, to guard against frequent attempts at suicide.

Symptoms of paralysis have exhibited themselves, and the doctors consider that, although he may linger, the ultimate result is certain, and not very far distant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 495.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 23, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copies of further Reports received from Major-General Sir Arnold Kemball with regard to the movements of the hostile forces before Alexinatz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 495.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters' Camp, before Alexinatz, Monday, September 11, 1876.*

ON the night of the 7th instant I reported to your Excellency by subjoined telegram that this army had advanced two miles on the heights bordering the valley of the Morava to the west (or four miles beyond the scene of the engagement of Friday the 1st instant), thus bringing its left front opposite to the centre of the Servian position on the heights bordering the valley to the east. The intervening plain, well cultivated with grain and studded with oak plantations and copse, varies in width from three miles at Alexinatz to five miles or more at Deligrad. The river, after leaving Alexinatz, approaches in a very tortuous course, with short reaches and deep bends, the base of the Turkish heights until, beyond the latitude of Deligrad, it turns westward to enter a defile of the mountains; whereas the Turkish heights partake of the character of parallel spurs, separated by deep ravines, which open into the valley of the Morava, the Servian heights consist of a lower continuous range, extending in one uninterrupted line, like a huge glacis, sloping gently to the plain from Alexinatz to Deligrad.

Alexinatz lies in a hollow at the southern extremity of this range, and is covered southwards by a spur from the mountains in the rear, which gradually decreases in height until it abuts upon the river. This spur, strongly fortified and intrenched, forms the southern part of the Servian position, before which Ahmed Ayoub Pasha's force was bivouacked some days, but which was found to be unassailable. Deligrad is a mere hamlet, situated at the base of the range in question, at its northern extremity, where its crest becomes more elevated, and unites itself with the mountains beyond. The Turkish heights northward, in like manner, gradually rise into the mountains, which, at this point, appear to close the valley of the Morava.

The Servian heights on the right side of the valley, more especially towards and beyond Deligrad, are fortified with batteries and intrenchments. On the left side of the valley, too, a strong Servian division has daily engaged the Turkish left flank from batteries of position, constructed on a parallel and more commanding range of heights to cover the defile of the Morava, as well as the road to Kruchewatz.

During the day these batteries are here and there supplemented by field-pieces pushed forward on prominent slopes and peaks in advance. The range across the ravine being, however, extreme, the Servian fire has not been sufficiently effective to dislodge the Turkish brigade there posted, or to inflict upon it serious loss.

The Turkish plan of operation, so far as it has transpired, is, on the one hand, to pierce the centre of the Alexinatz-Deligrad line, for which purpose a trestle-bridge has been constructed (by Bulgarian carpenters) over the extreme western bend of the river, out of range of the enemy's guns; and, on the other, to threaten simultaneously either flank of the enemy's position, viz., the "tête de pont" on his left, and the Servian division

before referred to on this side of the valley. To this effect I have just addressed to your Excellency the subjoined telegram (B).

I am still unable to give your Excellency an idea of the strength of the Servian forces opposed to us. On this head the Turkish Intelligence Department is entirely without information, and the Servian infantry, except when actually engaged, is carefully kept out of sight.

Three Krupp siege guns only have as yet reached Nisch; three (or six) others are presently expected there.

Orders have been issued to the several division and brigade Commanders to restrain the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians, with what effect I will in due course report to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

Telegram (A).

Head-Quarters, Thursday night.

Army has advanced yesterday two miles; now opposite centre Alexinatz-Deligrad line of defence. River winds much; propose trestle bridge extreme western bend to attack centre Servian position. Servians fire watering parties, reconnoitering parties; detachments occupy heights this side Morava River; occasionally attack our left front, left rear. Expected to arrive, six guns artillery of position, now approaching Nisch from Constantinople. Governor of Widdin has reported passage large numbers of Russian volunteers through Roumania and up Danube River join Servians.

Telegram (B).

Head-Quarters, Monday afternoon.

Trestle bridge completed; small body crossed yesterday supported by batteries at base heights; maintained position notwithstanding spirited attack by troops pushed forward in the advance Servian line of defence. Turks propose threaten *tête de pont* left flank enemy's position in front of Alexinatz, as well as Servian division on heights parallel our left flank to draw attention from real attack over trestle bridge on centre. Expected to occur to-morrow.

Inclosure 2 in No. 495.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters' Camp, before Alexinatz, September* 13, 1876.

I HAVE little to add to the two subjoined telegrams (A and B, despatched as stated) announcing to your Excellency the enemy's attack against the brigades of Hafiz, Selami, and Adil Pashas on the left flank and rear of the Turkish position. The infantry was principally engaged at the latter point, and was supported on the enemy's side by three guns of position and two field pieces.

On the Turkish side the defence was supported by four batteries of field guns. At the former point, that is on the left flank (Hafiz Pasha), the action was confined, as before, to artillery fire. The attack commenced between 2 and 3 P.M. The surprise was complete, the enemy's infantry advancing at one point to within 300 yards of a Turkish battery. At sunset he had been repulsed everywhere with heavy loss, but he still held his position on the opposite heights separated by a deep ravine. As usual, no pursuit or counter attack was, or has been, attempted. The outposts on either side have since, here and there, come into collision.

Supposing the attacking force on this occasion to have been detached from the Alexinatz-Deligrad lines, it must have made a detour of a full day's march, first in a westerly and afterwards in a southerly direction, in order to attain its present position, and must have enjoyed the advantage of good roads for its guns. These heights are everywhere covered with oak plantations and copse. It is, however, argued from his movements that the enemy must within the last few days have received a considerable accession of strength. He is undoubtedly fortifying his position generally.

I can learn nothing definitive as to our future operations.

Of the expected Krupp siege guns none have as yet arrived here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

Telegram (A).

Head-Quarters, Tuesday, A.M.

Yesterday afternoon enemy attacked left flank left rear with infantry and artillery more seriously than usual, but gallantly repulsed. Withdrew sunset. Centre attack will probably be postponed.

Telegram (B).

Head-Quarters, Wednesday, P.M.

No movements of any kind yet, or in immediate prospect. Returns of killed and wounded, Monday 24th, 168. Enemy's losses probably treble. About ten battalions engaged on both sides. Enemy's artillery, five guns. Heavy, continuous rain thirty-two hours; now fine.

Inclosure 3 in No. 495.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Head-Quarters' Camp, before Alexinatz, Monday evening,
Sir, *September* 18, 1876.

THE subjoined telegrams (A, B, C, and D), the second and fourth replying respectively to telegrams received from your Excellency, will have acquainted you with the course of events in this quarter up to date.

I regret to state that in spite of the precautions taken to restrain the Bashi-Bazouks, these ruffians have twice succeeded in firing a village situated in the plain about a mile and a-half in front of our camp, of which a part only of the houses had been destroyed when the orders issued by the Porte at your Excellency's instance were received here. On each occasion a patrol of cavalry seized suspected individuals. The guilt of these could not be established, but their apprehension has served to publish far and wide the threat of death to any offender henceforward caught *flagranti delicto*.

Last night about 8 P.M. a false alarm given by Bashi-Bazouks of an attack by the enemy led to repeated discharges of musketry on the part of our outposts and their supports in the direction of the trestle bridge, but the error was rectified as speedily as possible, and quiet immediately followed upon the order from head-quarters to "cease firing." I should not consider this incident worthy of mention but for the alert it created in the Servian lines, and the erroneous construction that may perhaps be put upon it.

Ahmed Ayoub Pasha was yesterday called into Nisch to see the Serdar Ekrem.

The pending armistice is understood by the Turks to extend to the 25th instant. The Servians after throwing shell occasionally into our camp up to four o'clock to-day, gave signs of recognizing the truce here, but the parlementaire sent by them about that hour could not be received owing to the officer in charge not being furnished with proper credentials; he intimated his intention to return to the outposts to-morrow duly accredited.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

Telegram (A).

Head-Quarters, Thursday, A.M.

Enemy still holds position opposite left rear, but quiet, has constructed three batteries for heavy guns on plain bearing on trestle bridge, and Turkish position in its rear beyond, compelling withdrawal battalion there bivouacked; no damage; Turks inactive; siege artillery not yet arrived from Nisch.

Telegram (B).

Head-Quarters, Thursday, 8 P.M.

Communication by telegraph has only just been received, reached Nisch to-day, 2 P.M. There can be no truth whatever in reported outrages on women and children by Turkish troops, because villages invariably found quite deserted; two helpless men, one aged woman abandoned, kindly treated, sent to Nisch. I cannot answer for lives

of villagers ahead surprised one occasion by Circassians who lifted cattle in face of enemy's forces, but no reason to believe outrages by them of the nature referred. All quiet here to-day.

Telegram (C).

Head-Quarters, Saturday night.

Servians still hold heights rear, also three batteries on plain yesterday morning shelled headquarters tents, no damage, wish Commander-in-chief would attack, situation cannot improve by looking at. Against inferior troops like Servians experience makes believe, with legitimate risk, ought to take Alexinatz at once, and probably Deligrad within week, perhaps waiting siege artillery, of which no intelligence, thus losing valuable time. Colonel Lindsay visited camp yesterday, coming from Widdin, Nisch, direct, has left four surgeons.

Telegram (D).

Head-Quarters, Sunday night.

Thursday telegram just reached me this morning. Servians do not appear have heard of arrangement, batteries have fired into our camp on and off during the day. Turks responded only to those in the rear when troublesome.

No. 496.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 24, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of the note by which the Porte has announced the prolongation of the term during which the Imperial troops are ordered to abstain from offensive operations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 496.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 24 *Septembre,* 1876.

LE délai pendant lequel les troupes Impériales en Serbie et au Monténégro avaient reçu l'ordre de suspendre leurs opérations et de se tenir strictement sur la défensive expirant demain Lundi, la Sublime Porte, ayant été informée qu'elle sera mise très prochainement à même de connaître la pensée des Puissances amies, vient d'expédier à ses commandants militaires de nouveaux ordres leur enjoignant de continuer à garder les mêmes positions et de s'abstenir, en attendant, de tout movement offensif.

En conséquence le Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique que jusqu'au 21 Septembre, v.s. (3 Octobre, N.S.), exclusivement les troupes Impériales en Serbie et au Monténégro garderont l'attitude qu'elles ont prise depuis le $\frac{3}{15}$ de ce mois à la condition que les Serbes et les Monténégrins de leur côté s'abstiendront de tout mouvement offensif.

(Translation.)

Verbal Note.

Sublime Porte, September 24, 1876.

AS the period during which the Imperial troops in Servia and Montenegro had received orders to suspend operations and to keep strictly on the defensive expires to-morrow (Monday), the Sublime Porte having been informed that she will very soon be placed in a position to know the views of the friendly Powers, has just sent to her military Commanders fresh orders enjoining them to continue to keep the same positions, and to abstain, meanwhile, from all offensive movements.

Consequently, the Imperial Foreign Office has the honour to bring to the know-

ledge of the Embassy of Her Britannic Majesty that up to the 21st September, o.s. (and 3rd October, N.S.), exclusively, the Imperial troops in Servia and acting against Montenegro will maintain the attitude which they have taken up since the $\frac{3rd}{15th}$ of this month, on condition that the Servians and Montenegrins on their part abstain from all movements of an offensive character.

No. 497.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 25, 1876.

NOTWITHSTANDING the Grand Vizier's statement to Mr. Marinich that the Porte saw no necessity for sending troops into the district of Philippopoli (which I reported to your Lordship by my despatch of the 20th instant), I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, on the 19th instant, 81 officers and 2,800 men were dispatched by the Adrianople Railway to Tatar Bazardjik, and that a body of 200 Circassian irregulars left Baba Eski on the previous day for the same destination.

One of the Christian officials who were desired by the Porte to serve on the Commission just dispatched to Bulgaria has declined to do so on the plea of ill-health; and the Commission now consists of four Mussulman and only three Christian members, namely, Ikiades, Vassa, and Yovantcho Effendis.

If the fourth member continues to be unable to undertake the duties, I shall suggest his place being filled by some one else.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 498.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 25, 1876.

THE Grand Vizier has been too unwell to leave his house for some days, but I made arrangements this morning to meet Midhat Pasha and Safvet Pasha in order formally to communicate to them the conditions of peace proposed by Her Majesty's Government as contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 21st instant.

I began by explaining to them the position in which Her Majesty's Government found themselves by the strong feeling at present prevailing in England against Turkey, and the two Ministers recognized with great frankness that it was under the circumstances impossible for them to expect from Great Britain the support which they might otherwise have hoped for.

I said that it had been necessary for Her Majesty's Government to frame conditions to which they would be able to obtain the assent of other Powers, and that they had exerted themselves to the utmost, and not without success, in moderating the views of some; but if the Porte declined to accept the present proposals and war ensued, as was most probable, their only course would be to withdraw from further interference, and allow events to take their course.

Upon my giving them the conditions conveyed in your Lordship's telegram they inquired whether they were to understand that all of those which had been put forward by the Porte were rejected.

To this I could return no answer; for although your Lordship had informed me that some of the Turkish conditions were regarded as inadmissible, I could not venture to say that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to support any of them, and I could only promise to refer the question to your Lordship.

They repeated that they had engaged to submit to the mediation of the Powers for peace, whether their conditions were accepted or rejected, and they adhered to that engagement; but they declined, as before, to consent to a formal armistice before they were informed that the Powers would negotiate for peace and examine their conditions.

It was easier, they said, to make peace than to arrange an armistice; and the very hour that it was signed they were ready to commence the evacuation of the Principalities.

Upon this I said that it would not be impossible to find a way out of the difficulty; for the Porte had only to declare that it would sign preliminaries of peace upon the basis

of the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government, and would withdraw its troops, at the same time leaving all the details to the negotiations preceding the definitive Treaty.

The suggestion was favourably received; but the proposal that a Protocol should be signed by the Porte and the Powers respecting the future administration of the insurgent provinces was regarded as a measure that must be fatal to the authority of the Imperial Government and inevitably lead to insurrection in other parts.

I remarked that there was nothing in the proposed Protocol which the Porte had not declared itself disposed to grant to all the Empire.

Although the Powers had not thought themselves called upon to stipulate for anything except for the provinces of which the insurrection had brought about the present complications, there was no reason why the Porte should not announce its determination to carry out the reforms in question everywhere, and merely add in the Protocol that the arrangements already promised for the insurgent provinces should there be carried out, as being necessary for districts that had been devastated by civil war.

The Ministers deprecated the adoption of a Protocol, and said it would be much easier for the Porte to take the requisite engagement in a manner equally binding without such a formal instrument in regard to the internal administration of the Empire; and they suggested that the object aimed at by Her Majesty's Government could be obtained by identic notes addressed by the Porte to the foreign Representatives.

I said that my instructions prescribed a Protocol, but that I would submit what they had said to your Lordship's consideration.

Safvet Pasha having asked me to put in writing the mode of proceeding which I would suggest, I have to-night sent him the Memorandum of which the copy is inclosed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 498.

Memorandum.

Therapia, le 25 Septembre, 1876.

LA réponse de la Sublime Porte à la communication faite ce matin de la part du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté pourrait être dans la forme d'un Mémorandum conçu dans des termes tellement nets qu'il déjouera toute tentative qui pourrait être faite pour retarder la conclusion immédiate de la paix.

Ce résultat sera certainement obtenu si dans le Mémorandum la Porte se déclare prête à signer dès aujourd'hui des préliminaires de paix, sur les bases indiquées dans le télégramme de Lord Derby, en laissant pour les négociations de la paix définitive tous les détails, et s'engage de commencer l'évacuation par ses troupes le lendemain de la signature des préliminaires.

Pour ce qui regarde les provinces insurgées le Protocole proposé ne contient rien en dehors de ce que la Sublime Porte elle-même se déclare résolue de donner à toutes ses provinces, excepté les arrangements spéciaux déjà promis, qui ne sont applicables qu'à des provinces qui ont été dévastées par la guerre civile.

Le Protocole pourrait donc parfaitement constater la résolution de la Porte de dôter toutes ses provinces Européennes des institutions en question, et pour ce qui regarde les provinces insurgées de maintenir les mesures de soulagement déjà promises.

(Translation.)

Therapia, September 25, 1876.

THE reply of the Sublime Porte to the communication made to it this morning on the part of the Government of Her Majesty might be in the form of a Memorandum drawn up in such distinct terms as to render abortive any attempt that might be made to delay the immediate conclusion of peace.

This result will certainly be obtained if in such Memorandum the Porte declares itself ready to sign at once preliminaries of peace on the bases indicated in Lord Derby's telegram leaving all the details for the negotiations of the definitive peace, and engages that its troops shall commence the evacuation the day following the signature of the preliminaries.

As regards the insurgent provinces, the proposed Protocol contains nothing beyond what the Porte declares herself resolved to grant to all her provinces, except the special arrangements already promised, which are only applicable to the provinces which have been devastated by the civil war.

The Protocol might, therefore, perfectly well state the determination of the Porte to grant the institutions in question to all its European provinces, and, as regards the insurgent provinces, to maintain the measures of relief already promised.

No. 499.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 25, 1876.

ALTHOUGH the Turkish Ministers and others who are aware of the true position of affairs, know that peace at almost any price is necessary for the salvation of the Empire, there can be no doubt that great indignation prevails among the Mussulman population, at the prospect of its being made upon conditions which they regard as dishonourable, or, at least, as not giving them the satisfaction to which they consider themselves entitled, after the sacrifices made to repel an unprovoked attack.

A threatening notice against the Ministers has been affixed to some of the principal mosques, and the Christians are again alarmed at the language of the Mussulmans, who, they fear, may give way to violence upon the conclusion of peace.

I believe that they exaggerate their danger, and that the Government will be able to prevent the discontent from taking the form of overt acts, and also that there is a large class which will hail the restoration of peace with unmixed satisfaction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 500.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 26, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copies of further reports which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, with reference to the excesses committed in the neighbourhood of Slimnia and of brigandage near Bourgas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 500.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bourgas, September* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to continue the report commenced on the 9th September.

At the village of Kayabashi (forty-five houses, two and a half hours from Gradetch and in the Caza of Karnabad) Bashi-Bazouks commenced passing and of course plundering, on Sunday the 21st of May; upon their arrival the inhabitants, with such of their stock as they could hastily collect, fled to the neighbouring Turkish village, where the women and children were sheltered; the Turks refusing to receive the men, most of these with their cattle took to the woods; one of them, however, started at night for Gradetch, whence he returned the next day with a sergeant of police and three or four privates, who were able to induce the irregulars to leave: the Courroudjou or Garde Champêtre of Kayabashi, a Turk named Ahmet of Abdol-keui, also did his best to restrain the excesses committed by Bashi-Bazouks. In this village two men were wounded, one by a yataghan, the other by a pistol shot, and a third peasant named Bosionin Oglou Penio was induced to go with the Bashi-Bazouks by a promise that they would give him some wheat: this man's body was found three months afterwards, in the marshy lake of Soungourlar, between Kayabashi and Karnabad. The loss to this village was about 32,848 piastres.

Gradetch was again visited by Bachi-Bazouks on the 3rd June, on which day a fair was being held at Karnabad, eight hours distant: a report being spread that Chefket Pasha was marching upon Gradetch to sack it, hundreds of Mussulmans left the fair and the numbers swelling as they advanced, about 4,000 (the greater number of them Circassians) appeared before the village and commenced plundering in the outskirts, the captain (Ali Aga) and his company of soldiers being unable to restrain them.

At Karnabad there were fortunately some Asiatic regular troops encamped, and the major, with 300 men, was sent by the Kaïmakam in pursuit of the irregulars, whom they found engaged in destroying a mill near the village belonging to a certain Dino Chorbadji; as the plunderers refused to desist, they were fired upon, and a Turk from the Caza of Kizil Aghadj was severely wounded: this put a stop to the pillage, but the irregulars and their carts remained round the village for three days, being fed at the expense of the Bulgarians. The loss to Gradetch on the two occasions is 42,495 piastres.

In my Report of last week, whilst speaking of Bashkeui, I omitted to mention that a shepherd of that village, Penio Yanoff, returning home from the Dobrudja after a long absence, was met by Bashi-Bazouks close to Bashkeui and murdered.

In speaking of Shekerzadé, Mehmet Aga (of Slimnia), in connection with Papasskeui, I erroneously reported him as "since dead;" this, I am glad to say, was an error on my part.

The inhabitants of Neko-keui, Bashkeui, Catonista, Gradetch, and Papasskeui, are mostly shepherds or sheep-owners; the men spending the greater part of their time in the Dobrudja with their flocks, whilst the women spin and weave at home, and are certainly much richer than those of the purely agricultural villages of Roumelia which I have seen. They (with the natural exception of the peasants of Papasskeui) showed a good deal of the resignation to fate so common amongst semi-Oriental races, constantly saying, "What is done is done; our lives, thank God, are spared us; we can work, and so make up our losses; but when will affairs go back into their old groove, that we may be able to go without fear from one village to another, and attend to our business as before?"

Everywhere I heard the present Mutessarif of Slimnia spoken of by the Christian population in terms of the highest praise; they attribute to him, and I believe with perfect justice, that the Caza of Slimnia did not share the fate of that of Philibé.

The Roumelian soldiers appear to be generally a little too much inclined to petty larceny, and perhaps not under as strict a discipline as their Asiatic comrades, whose behaviour I have heard extolled (with but one exception) in all the places where they have been quartered. The exception is in the person of Youssouf Aga, Ikissdji Yuzbashi (first lieutenant?) of the Gumuch-hané battalion, who, having been quartered at Papasskeui for sixteen days with twenty-five men, the night before he left shut up in a room eleven of the principal chorbadjis, and extorted from them 4,379 piastres in money; three rugs, worth 600 piastres; a receipt (though he had paid nothing) for 2,507 piastres, value of food supplied to the soldiers; and a certificate that he had not only discharged all debts, but that his conduct during his stay in the village had been exemplary.

Having had occasion to mention the Mudir of Kazan, Hadji Shaban Aga, in connection with the district of Slimnia, I beg your Excellency's leave to cite another instance, amongst the many I have heard, in which he risked his own life to save that of others.

About the 24th May he heard that Bashi-Bazouks were advancing upon the village of Virbitza (caza of Turnova, six hours from Cazan), and started to overtake them, with a view of restraining excesses. Having come up with 300 of them, he walked along with them for some time, when two Christian peasants were seen at a distance. The Turks began to whisper amongst themselves that it would be a good thing to kill these men, as they might have money with them. Hadji Shaban (who was alone), understanding what was likely to happen, ordered the Bashi-Bazouks to stop, placed himself before the peasants, and said that he would see them safe to their homes at Virbitza. The Bashi-Bazouks beginning to murmur, he pointed his gun at the 300, commanded them to pass, and march fifty paces in front of him, and thus brought the two intended victims into Ubitza, and to their own houses.

Shortly afterwards Hadji Shaban was dismissed from his post, I do not know for what reason.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 500.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bourgas, September* 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, having received a telegram from Haidar Bey, the Mutessarif of Slimnia, expressing a particular wish to see me, I rode from Bourgas to Karnabad, on the 11th instant, for the purpose of meeting him.

At Karnabad Haidar Bey showed me a letter from the Grand Vizier, relative to two Reports addressed by me to your Excellency, of August 12 and 18, the first of which

relates various instances of robberies committed by cavalry volunteers in the town of Karnabad, and mentions nine villages in the caza of Karnabad as having more especially suffered from depredations on the part of Bashi-Bazouks or others. The second is the recital of an outrage committed at the village of Aghadjlar upon the daughter of a Bulgarian peasant, named Dragni.

With regard to the latter case, the Mutessarif informed me that a Special Commissioner had been sent from Adrianople, for the purpose of examining the affair, and that the peasants of Aghadjlar, the Council of Yamboli, and other persons, had given him a certificate declaring that only robbery and assault had been committed, the girl having escaped injury.

Haidar Bey then suggested to me that as my Report was in direct opposition to the certificate now in the hands of the Turkish authorities it might be possible to arrive at a "mezzo termine," by my writing that, having made further inquiries into the case I found that I had been to a certain extent misinformed. My answer was that, with such documents in their hands, the authorities would not need any recantation from me; and that at any rate, knowing the way in which such certificates are obtained, and being perfectly certain of the truth of every word contained in my Report, I must decline to add to or subtract from anything I had already written on the subject.

With regard to the statements contained in my Report, Haidar Bey informed me that of three Bulgarians questioned as to the horses supposed to be taken from them, two confirmed my Report, the third saying that he had sold his horse, and had received part payment.

The Mutessarif also informed me that he had sent out persons to the nine villages named by me to inquire into their losses. I took this opportunity of remarking that I did not think there were three Bulgarian villages in the cazas of Karnabad and Slimnia that had not suffered either by Bashi-Bazouks, or by their Mussulman neighbours, to the extent of from 150 to 250 Turkish pounds; and that the system of extorting money or goods from the Christian peasants was in full force at the time of our conversation.

In the letter of instructions from the Grand Vizier was a line to the effect that "Mr. Brophy will give you the names of the persons from whom he had his information." To this I replied that, having no instructions from your Excellency to do so, and knowing that the information in question was not only substantially, but literally, correct, I must beg to refuse to say from whom I had learnt it.

I must beg to observe to your Excellency that whilst I maintain, and can prove, the strict accuracy of every word in the two Reports now questioned, I am far from blaming either Haidar Bey or the Kaïmakam of Karnabad. Both of these gentlemen have done their utmost to prevent the outrages which have reduced the Christian population of the sandjak of Slimnia to the state in which it now is; and but for them that state would be infinitely worse.

Unfortunately the means at their command are inadequate. A handfull of policemen cannot restrain the lust of plunder which, since the last four months, has taken possession of the Mussulmans of Roumelia; and, unless a radical change takes place, or is enforced, amongst the Turkish peasantry, I fear that their Bulgarian fellow-subjects will never again enjoy peace or prosperity.

Were I to write, not all I hear, but all I know, of the daily sufferings of the Rayahs in my Consular district, I should have to use reams of paper.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 500.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bourgas, September* 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 30th August last a lad of 18 or 20 years old, son of a widow named Yanoutza, of the village of Kukchuk Kaleh in the Caza of Aidos, was carried off from the field he was carrying sheaves in, and conveyed by five persons to a forest near Bourgas, about 25 miles distant. A week after this the sum of 8,000 piastres was paid to his captors, and the lad was released.

The Kaïmakams of Aidos and Bourgas sent out patrols as soon as they were informed of the circumstances, but up to the present time the criminals have not been arrested.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 501.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 26, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Belgrade has forwarded to me complaints that have reached him from the Servian authorities regarding excesses said to have been committed by the Turkish troops upon their prisoners.

Copies of these have no doubt been sent to your Lordship's office by Mr. White.

Colonel Loyd Lindsay, who has recently been at the head-quarters of the contending armies, is staying here for a few days. I placed some of them in his hands, and he has been able to give an unqualified denial, on the authority of General Kemball himself, to the gravest of the accusations brought against the Turkish soldiery.

I have the honour to inclose herewith copies of the papers in question.

Colonel Lindsay states that there has been great abuse of the Red Cross, and that as many Russians joined the Servians as combatants bearing that sign, to which they were in no respect entitled, it is very probable that some of these may have been fired upon and killed.

It is not possible to verify the statements issued by the Servian Government with regard to the excesses of the Turkish troops in the Bulgarian villages, but, while they may be true, it is at the same time to be remembered that a system has been organised for creating a feeling of animosity in Europe against Turkey by means of manufactured reports of excesses committed by the troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 501.

Colonel Protitch to M. Nikolitch.

(Traduction.)

M. le Ministre, *Alexinatz, le 30 Juillet, 1876.*

HIER, 29 Juillet, les Turcs ont commis en plein jour des actes de barbarie dignes du moyen âge.

A la liste des villages détruits par les Turcs il faut en ajouter douze qui avaient été occupés par nos troupes et qui ont été les victimes du brigandage Musulman. Les villages de Tzérié, Paillina, Bertchinizzi, Truava le haut et le bas, Topavnitza le haut et le bas, Millkovtzi et le Monastère de la Sainte Vierge, Bélié Polié, Kravié, Drajevtzi et Mezgraia n'existent plus. Tous ont été reduits en cendres. Des habitants une partie a échappé par la fuite, les autres ont été massacrés.

Tout cela a été exécuté par l'armée régulière Turque assistée dans son œuvre par des Bachi-Bozouks et à l'aide de la ruse la plus lâche.

Tandis qu'à l'aile gauche les Bachi-Bozouks procédaient au massacre et à l'incendie sous la protection de Nizams, d'autres corps de Nizams traversaient les autres villages et arrivaient à proximité de nos avant-postes, rassurant sur leur passage les paysans et les engageant à se livrer paisiblement à leurs travaux. Puis ils commencèrent à mettre le feu aux villages les plus proches de nos lignes et à en massacrer la population. Ensuite ils firent successivement éprouver le même sort aux autres villages dont ils avaient rassuré les habitants à leur passage. A Tzérié ils ont tout mis à mort et n'ont épargné que deux jeunes filles qu'ils ont emmenées en esclavage.

Nulle part ils n'ont réussi à passer la frontière les nôtres les ayant accueillis par un feu très nourri. De notre côté nous avons eu quelques blessés et cinq morts dont les Turcs ont réussi à s'emparer, et qu'ils ont mutilés et coupés en morceaux.

(Signé) C. PROTITCH.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre, *Alexinatz, July 30, 1876.*

YESTERDAY, July 29th, the Turks openly committed acts of barbarity worthy of the Middle Ages.

To the list of villages destroyed by the Turks a dozen must be added which had been occupied by our troops, and which have fallen victims to Turkish brigandage. The villages of Tzérié, Paillina, Bertekinizzi, Upper and Lower Truana, Upper and Lower Topaonitza, Millkovtzi, and the monastery of the Holy Virgin, Bélié Polié, Kravié,

Drajevtzi, and Mezgraia no longer exist. All have been reduced to ashes. Of the inhabitants part have fled, and the rest have been massacred.

All this has been the work of the regular Turkish army, assisted by Bashi-Bazouks, and by the aid of the basest artifice.

While the Bashi-Bazouks on the left wing were massacring and burning under protection of the Nizams, other bodies of Nizams traversed the other villages, and approached our outposts, reassuring the peasants on their way, and telling them to betake themselves in peace to their occupations. Then they began to fire the villages nearest our lines, and to massacre the population. The other villages, the inhabitants of which they had reassured as they went through, afterwards experienced the same fate. At Tzérié they put every one to death, and only spared two young girls, whom they carried way into slavery.

They nowhere succeeded in crossing the frontier, as our men received them with a well-sustained fire. On our side we had some wounded and five killed, whose bodies the Turks succeeded in obtaining possession of, and then mutilated and cut to pieces.

(Signed) C. PROTITCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 501.

Colonel Georgevitch to M. Ristitch.

(Télégraphique.) *Alexinatz, le* $\frac{24 \text{ Août}}{5 \text{ Septembre}}$, 1876.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que le détachement de cavalerie régulière Turque qui a pris, le 3 Septembre, à 10 heures du matin, Louka Popovitch, Secrétaire du sous-Comité de la Croix Rouge d'Alexinatz, ne s'est pas borné à le tuer, mais lui a d'abord abattu et coupé en morceux le bras qui portait le brassard blanc, puis après avoir tué leur victime d'un coup de feu dans la poitrine les Turcs ont lacéré la Croix Rouge à coups de yataghan.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Alexinatz.* $\frac{\text{August } 24}{\text{September } 5}$, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the detachment of regular Turkish cavalry which, on the 3rd September at 10 in the morning, captured Louka Popovitch, Secretary of the Sub-Committee of the Red Cross of Alexinatz, was not content with killing him, but first struck off and cut in pieces the arm which bore the white badge, then, after killing their victim with a shot in the breast, the Turks hacked the Red Cross with blows of the yataghan.

No. 502.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 26, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, dated the 21st instant, stating that he returned on the previous evening from the interior, and that, from inquiries which he made at Uskup, Pristina, and Mitrovitza stations on the 19th instant, among Mahommedans and Christians who had left the Prisrend districts on the 18th instant, it appears that the report about the pillage of sixty villages in that district is false.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 503.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

(Extract.) *Bucharest, September* 27, 1876.

M. JONESCO called upon me yesterday to express his own and his colleagues' gratification at the communication in which I had conveyed, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, the approbation of Her Majesty's Government of the pacific policy of the Government of Prince Charles.

No. 504.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

My Lord, *Paris, October 2, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes told me this afternoon that he had been somewhat pressed by Prince Orloff, the Russian Ambassador, to give him some intimation of the course which the French Government would be likely to take with regard to the Russian proposals for an occupation of Turkish territory, in the event of the Porte's rejecting the conditions of peace put forward by the Powers.

He said that he had pointed out in general terms some of the inconveniences which might attend the measures proposed, but had reserved his opinion on the subject of adopting them, and had expressed a hope that the contingency which they contemplated might not occur.

I told him that when they were communicated to your Lordship by Count Schouvaloff, you had urged that threats of the kind might change the present prudent dispositions of the Sultan and his Ministers; that they might lead to outbreaks against the Christians in Turkey; and that they could not but produce a bad impression in Europe generally. I added that your Lordship had declined to give an answer as to the adoption of them until you had consulted your colleagues.

The first proposal that Bosnia, Bulgaria, and the Bosphorus should all be occupied appeared to have been communicated to the Duc Decazes some time before the second, which confined the occupation to the presence of the fleets in the Bosphorus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 505.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, October 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *Livadia, le 3 Octobre, 1876, 3·27 P.M.*

UNE suspension d'hostilités régulière et d'une durée suffisante n'ayant pas été établie, et les négociations de paix rencontrant des difficultés inattendues à Constantinople, la lutte a été renouvelée dans la vallée de la Morava. Le Gouvernement Impérial ne saurait voir d'un œil indifférent le sang couler dans la presqu'île des Balcans. L'Empereur propose aux Cours Garantes d'arrêter cette effusion de sang en imposant immédiatement aux deux parties un armistice ou une trêve de six semaines pour donner aux Cabinets le temps d'aviser au règlement définitif des questions pendantes.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Livadia, October 3, 1876, 3·27 P.M.*

A REGULAR suspension of hostilities of sufficient length not having been established, and the peace negotiations encountering unexpected difficulties at Constantinople, the struggle has recommenced in the Valley of the Morava. The Imperial Government cannot witness with indifference this bloodshed in the Balkan Peninsula. The Emperor proposes to the Guaranteeing Courts to stay this bloodshed by immediately imposing an armistice or a truce for six weeks on the two parties, so as to afford time to the Cabinets to confer on a definitive settlement of the questions at issue.

No. 506.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1876.*

IN the course of a long and confidential conversation which I had with the Russian Ambassador yesterday, reference was made to the proposals of his Government for measures of coercion in case the Porte definitively rejected the terms of peace which have been submitted to it.

I told Count Schouvaloff that I could give no positive opinion upon these measures until they had been discussed by my colleagues in the Cabinet Council which was to be

held to-day. I did not, however, conceal from his Excellency that the proposals were of a nature to raise grave objections, and that some of them, at least, were likely to be viewed with disfavour in this country.

Several possible alternatives were then mentioned, and among others one to the following effect: that in case of an unfavourable reply from the Porte to the proposals now before it, the Powers should fall back upon their original demand for an armistice, which would afford time for them to consider what further steps should be taken.

Count Schouvaloff said that he would telegraph this suggestion at once to Livadia, and this morning his Excellency called upon me and read to me confidentially a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, which he had just received, though he was not certain that it was in answer to his message. It was to the following effect:—

A regular suspension of hostilities of sufficient length not having been established, and the negotiations for peace having encountered unexpected difficulties at Constantinople, the contest had been renewed in the valley of the Morava.

The Imperial Government could not be indifferent to the bloodshed thus caused, and the Emperor proposed to the Guaranteeing Powers that it shall be arrested by immediately imposing an armistice or truce of six weeks on both parties, so as to give the mediating Governments time to consider the means of definitively arranging the pending questions.

I had no difficulty in submitting this proposal to my colleagues, and Her Majesty's Government have decided to give their support to the proposal of an armistice of not less than a month as the next step to be taken in the event of the rejection by Turkey of the proposed terms for a basis of peace.

They have, on the other hand, been unable to concur in the measures of occupation and the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus which had been previously suggested by Prince Gortchakow.

I have informed Count Schouvaloff of this decision.

I am, &c
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 507.

Prince Bismarck to Baron von den Brincken.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Baron von den Brincken, October* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 3, 1876.

THE Turkish Ambassador has officially communicated to-day the refusal of the peace proposals by the Porte.

Turkey is willing to concede by means of general reforms more than the Powers have asked for. To make concessions to single Provinces will bring the other Provinces to revolution.

The proposed Protocol cannot be signed.

No. 508.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October* 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 4 *Octobre,* 1876.

IL nous revient de plusieurs côtés que des pourparlers ont lieu entre les Puissances pour combiner une occupation militaire de certaines parties de l'Empire. Les Autrichiens occuperaient la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine; la Russie, la Bulgarie; et les flottes de l'Angleterre et de la France réunies viendraient mouiller dans le Bosphore. Nous nous refusons de croire que l'Europe puisse se prêter à une telle mesure. Mais il nous paraît difficile de nier le fait des négociations. Ainsi, la Turquie, qui a usé d'une modération j'ose dire sans exemple dans l'histoire, à l'égard de son vassal révolté, et a fait taire son juste ressentiment et jusqu'aux suggestions de sa propre sécurité pour s'incliner devant les conseils de l'Europe, verrait, en retour de tant de désintéressement et d'esprit de conciliation, son territoire envahi par les armées des Puissances amies et alliées, et cela juste au moment où, sous les regards de l'Europe, elle se prépare à doter le pays d'institutions destinées à étendre à tout l'Empire les bienfaits que les Puissances avaient en vue pour quelques unes seulement de ses provinces, et c'est parceque la Turquie n'a pas accepté et n'acceptera jamais une pareille distinction qu'on veut lui infliger cette démonstration. Quel intérêt trouve-t-elle,

l'Europe, à préparer cette catastrophe pour notre pays à cause de la non-acceptation d'un simple mot dont nous voulons réaliser la signification telle qu'elle nous a été suggérée ? Avant de se lancer dans cette voie, au bout de laquelle elle ne peut voir que de terribles complications pour elle-même, ne serait-elle pas mieux d'attendre pour voir de quelle manière nous réaliserons nos promesses ? Si le projet qu'on attribue aux Gouvernements venait à se réaliser la Turquie n'aurait à opposer aux forces des Puissances que l'évidence de son droit et les actes signés par elles. Si la Sublime Porte a pu oublier qu'elle a été victorieuse dans la provocation, elle n'oubliera pas qu'elle est encore un Etat indépendant, et qu'elle se doit à elle-même de préférer la mort honorable au démembrement et au partage de ses états.

Veuillez vous énoncer dans le sens de cette dépêche auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 4, 1876.

WE hear from several quarters that communications are passing between the Powers with a view of concerting a military occupation of certain parts of the Empire—the Austrians to occupy Bosnia and the Herzegovina, the Russians Bulgaria, and the combined English and French fleets to anchor in the Bosphorus. We refuse to believe that Europe can lend itself to such a measure, but it seems difficult to doubt the fact of the negotiations. Thus Turkey, who, as regards its rebellious vassal, has exercised a degree of moderation, I venture to affirm, without parallel in history, and who has silenced its just resentment, and even the suggestions for its own security, in order to submit to the counsels of Europe, Turkey is to see, in return for such disinterestedness and such a spirit of conciliation, her territory invaded by the armies of allied Powers, and this at the very moment when, in full view of Europe, she is about to confer on the country institutions which are destined to extend to the whole Empire the benefits which the Powers contemplated only for some of its provinces; and it is because Turkey has not and will never accept such a distinction that they choose to resort to this demonstration against her. What interest can Europe find in preparing this catastrophe for our land on account of the non-acceptance of a simple word, the meaning of which we wish to realise in the sense of the suggestions made to us? Before committing herself to this path, which can only lead to terrible complications for herself, would not Europe do better to wait and see how we fulfil our promises? If the project that is attributed to the Governments were to be realized, Turkey could only oppose to the forces of the Powers the evidence of her rights, and the acts signed by themselves. If the Sublime Porte has, though challenged, not made full use of her victory, she will never forget that she is still an independent State, and that she owes it to herself to choose an honourable death rather than consent to the dismemberment and partition of her States.

Have the goodness to express yourself in the sense of this despatch to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 509.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 4, 1876.

THE German Chargé d'Affaires called here to-day and inquired what view Her Majesty's Government took of the proposal made by the Emperor of Russia respecting an armistice.

I informed him in reply that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to assent to urging upon the Porte an armistice of not less than a month.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 510.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 4, 1876.

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon, and communicated to me the substance of a telegram from his Government on the subject of General Soumarokoff's mission to Vienna.

Count Andrassy states that the General was the bearer of an autograph letter from the Emperor of Russia to the Emperor Francis Joseph, of the contents of which there can, of course, be no communication or discussion.

General Soumarokoff was at the same time instructed to make a communication from the Russian Government, which had also been addressed to the other Cabinets, involving a proposal for the military occupation of Bulgaria and Bosnia, and the simultaneous presence of the fleets of the Great Powers in the Bosphorus, with a view to forcing the Porte to accept the conditions of peace, and to prevent any further massacres.

The Austrian Government, Count Andrassy states, cannot consider the first part of this proposal as calculated to attain the two objects above-mentioned. They have, therefore been unable to accept it.

On the other hand, they are of opinion that if, in the course of negotiations, necessity should arise to have recourse to measures of coercion, the action of the united fleets at the capital would be the most suitable step to take.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 511.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 4, 1876, 9·45 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir A. Buchanan's telegram, nothing can be more distinct than the terms in which I warned the Porte that no assistance was to be expected from Her Majesty's Government against an attack by Russia; and I have not seen nor had any communication with Halil Pasha for more than a month.

Public feeling here is, however, daily becoming more dangerous; and if the Turks, believing themselves abandoned by every one, give way to despair, it is impossible to say what the consequences may be.

Neither foreign occupation, nor naval demonstration, can be made without great danger.

No. 512.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 5, 1876.

I HAD some conversation with the Russian Ambassador this afternoon as to the fresh steps that are now being taken to procure an armistice between Turkey and Servia.

Understanding from what had fallen from his Excellency in previous conversations that the Russian Government would still view with favour the plan of a Conference to consider the means of arranging a permanent settlement, I told him that Her Majesty's Government would propose, in the event of the armistice being concluded, that a Conference should immediately follow; and that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople was authorised to make this known to the Porte.

Count Schouvaloff appeared to think that this course would meet with the approval of his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 513.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 5, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, I have to request your Excellency to state to the Russian Government that Her Majesty's Government consider that the armistice should be immediately followed by a Conference, and that instructions in this sense have been sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, for communication to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 514.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's having instructed Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade to communicate to their families the safe arrival at Salonica of eleven Servian prisoners, as reported in your despatch of the 2nd ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 515.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a copy of a letter from the Greek Government communicated to me by M. Gennadius, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London, protesting against a fresh arrival of Circassian colonists at Volo.*

I told M. Gennadius that I would call your Excellency's attention to the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 516.

The Earl Derby to Sir H. Elliot.†

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.*

I HAVE to request your Excellency, in the event of the terms of peace which have been proposed by the Powers being formally refused, to press upon the Porte as an alternative to grant an armistice for not less than a month, stating that you are instructed, in case of refusal, to leave Constantinople, as it will then be evident that all further exertions on the part of Her Majesty's Government to save the Porte from ruin will have become useless.

Before, however, resorting to this step your Excellency will again refer home for further instructions.

Your Excellency is at liberty to inform the Porte that on the conclusion of an armistice it is proposed that a Conference shall immediately follow.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 517.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.†

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.*

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency when you communicate to the Porte my telegram of to-day to deliver to the Minister an English copy, together with a French translation, down to the word "useless."

It is desired that your manner and language should be very earnest, for a consequence of the refusal of Turkey of these last overtures are incalculable.

Your Excellency may also communicate to the Porte the contents of this despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 480.

† Substance sent by telegraph.

No. 518.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.**

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 5, 1876.

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh,† stating that the Emperor of Russia has proposed to the Guaranteeing Powers that they should impose upon the Porte an armistice or truce of six weeks, and that Her Majesty's Government have replied, through Count Schouvaloff, that they will support at Constantinople the proposal for the conclusion of an armistice for not less than one month, as the next step to be taken in the event of the definitive rejection by the Porte of the terms of peace which have been proposed by Her Majesty's Government and supported by the other Powers; but that they cannot concur in the previous suggestion of Prince Gortchakow as to the occupation of Bulgaria and Bosnia, and the entry of two fleets into the Bosphorus.

I have to instruct your Excellency to communicate the substance of this despatch to the German Government, and to state that Sir Henry Elliot has been directed to intimate to the Porte that if the terms of peace shall be rejected, and the armistice accepted, it is the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that a Conference should immediately assemble.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 519.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 5, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to you a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, desiring his Excellency to press the Porte in the strongest manner to accede to an armistice;‡ and I have to instruct you to join your colleagues, who will no doubt receive similar instructions, in doing the same at Belgrade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 520.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, October* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, inclosing a telegram from your Government protesting against M. Ristic's assertion that the Turks have violated the armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 521.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 6.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September* 23, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th instant, I have the honour to ad that, according to the views of several Hungarians here, who know Bulgaria, the true statistics of population will be found to be much nearer the estimate therein mentioned than to the estimate by my Bulgarian informant. And it appears that the Greeks are only a majority in about thirty districts or villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

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* Similar despatches were addressed to Sir A. Buchanan, Lord Lyons, and Mr. Malet. † No. 506.
‡ No. 516.

No. 522.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 6.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 25, 1876.*

SERMED EFFENDI informs me that from 500 to 800 Russian officers and soldiers pass through here every week, and that he has reported to his Government that some of them in the last week or two are said to have crossed into Bosnia to form a nucleus of insurrection.

As regards the latter averment, he seems to have considered the rumours and allegations in the journals and elsewhere to that effect to warrant a warning to his Government, but I had not hitherto mentioned them to your Excellency as they seemed to be without authentic confirmation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 523.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6.)

(Extract.) *Athens, September 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs called upon me this morning, and spoke to me at some length as to what he understood was now the policy of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the complications which have arisen in European Turkey.

He expressed very much astonishment and disappointment at seeing the cause of the Slavs taken up so warmly by England, as well as by Russia.

I replied that, at any rate, I was sure that Her Majesty's Government had the interests of all the Christian races in Turkey at heart, and that they had given proof of that by giving their support to the reforms proposed by Count Andrassy for the amelioration of the condition of the Christians in Turkey.

M. Contostavlos answered that all the information he had lately received led him to believe that Her Majesty's Government was recommending, or would recommend, the granting of autonomy to the Slav Provinces of Turkey.

Judging by M. Contostavlos' language to me on this subject, there appears to be much disappointment felt by the Greek Government and in Greece at no special notice having been taken in England of the Greek Provinces in Turkey.

No. 524.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 6, 1876.*

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon by appointment, and asked me for an explanation of the events which have taken place in the last few days in relation to Eastern affairs. He was acquainted with the Russian proposition of a joint naval demonstration at Constantinople, coupled with a Russian occupation of Bulgaria and an Austrian occupation of Bosnia, but he did not know how this proposition had been received by Her Majesty's Government.

I told him that I had been unable to give Count Schouvaloff a definitive reply on the subject until after the Cabinet which was held on Wednesday last; but that I had from the first pointed out to him the grave inconveniences and dangers involved in the Russian proposal. The passage of the fleets through the Dardanelles was in any case a violation of Treaties, and if resisted by the Porte, as it reasonably might be, it was an act of war; and the same observation applied to any occupation of Turkish territory by foreign troops. I had subsequently, in accordance with the opinion of my colleagues, informed Count Schouvaloff that Her Majesty's Government could not approve, or be parties to, any part of the proposed scheme; and it had been agreed upon between Her Majesty's Government and that of Russia that another method should be adopted of extricating ourselves and all the Powers from the difficulty in which we are placed by the refusal of the Porte to consent to the basis of peace proposed. I had accordingly instructed Sir H. Elliot to press strongly for an armistice of not less than a month, with the view

that, when granted, it should be followed by a Conference in which the nature of the reforms necessary for the protection of the subject populations of Turkey might be discussed. To this demand, which had been made only within the last thirty-six hours, I had not yet received a reply.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 525.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government are anxious to hear from you whether they may expect any further definite answer to the proposals made by them to the Porte for the basis of peace.

Up to the present time, the only answer which has been received by them is the communication on the 2nd instant of a telegram received by Musurus Pasha from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated the 30th ultimo.

Her Majesty's Government also wish to know whether any formal notice has been sent to your Excellency by the Porte of the result of the meetings of the Grand Council.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 526.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1876.

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me the telegram from his Government, of which I inclose a copy,† protesting against the proposal which they understood had been made for a military occupation of Bosnia and Bulgaria, and for the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus.

I told Musurus Pasha that Her Majesty's Government had refused their assent to the measures of occupation suggested by Russia, and had also objected to the proposal that the fleets should enter the Bosphorus.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 527.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1876.

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from the Turkish Ministry for Foreign Affairs,‡ communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador, in which is inclosed a report presented to the military authorities by Dr. Zoéros, Director of the Sanitary Department of the army of Podgoritza, giving a list of soldiers who had been horribly mutilated by the Montenegrins.

I inclose also copy of a despatch which was received in the course of last month from Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari,§ in which he states that he had seen in hospital nine Turkish soldiers, who, after having been wounded in battle, had been brutally mutilated, and that there was every reason to believe that the men he saw had not been subjected to exceptional treatment, but that most of the wounded and dead in the battlefield of Medun had been treated with similar atrocity.

As the report now officially received from the Porte merely confirms the statements previously made by an impartial and trustworthy eye-witness, there can be little doubt that it is substantially correct, and that outrages have been committed by the Montenegrins on helpless men on the field of battle, which are a disgrace to humanity.

* Substance telegraphed.

† No. 508.

‡ No. 478.

§ No. 161.

Your presence at Cettigné enables Her Majesty's Government to make known to the Prince the feelings with which they have read the reports submitted to them, and I should therefore wish you to state to him that, if the war should continue, it cannot be too strongly urged upon him that he should use every effort to induce his subjects to refrain from acts of cruelty, which cannot but alienate the sympathies of civilized nations, and seriously discredit his own reputation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 528.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6, 7·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 6, 1876, 5·26 P.M.*

I HAVE acquainted Count Andrassy with the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Lord A. Loftus, and with your having instructed Sir H. Elliot to inform Porte that it is intended that the armistice asked for shall be followed by a Conference.

His Excellency said he cannot assent to take part in a Conference until he knows how it is to be composed and the objects which it is proposed to obtain from it, and in the present state of things he can only anticipate its leading to abortive or dangerous results. Is Turkey, he asked, to be represented in the Conference, and if she is not, is it probable that she will agree to carry out its decisions ?

If therefore it is intended to propose an ultimatum to be submitted to Porte the Governments must be prepared to use force to impose it, and in the present temper of the Turkish Government and the excitement of the Russian nation, he fears whatever decision may be taken will inevitably lead to war.

On the general question he expressed strong opinions against the expediency of asking for concessions which the Porte cannot grant, instead of being satisfied with moderate measures which could be easily carried out. It is clear, he said, that every step in advance beyond what is absolutely necessary, on the part of one of the Powers will be followed by a further one on the part of another Power, as England's adding new administrative nstitutions for Bulgaria to her demands on the Porte was immediately followed by Russia proposing to occupy Bulgaria.

No. 529.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7.)

My Lord, *Scutari, September 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Acting Russian Consul, having communicated to me a report that had reached him, that the Orthodox Church at Spuz had been desecrated by the Turkish irregular soldiers, who had also exhumed the body of a priest who had recently died, and had cut it up in pieces, and then scattered them in the streets at Spuz, I at once took steps to ascertain how far my Russian colleague had been correctly informed, with the intention, should the story prove true, of bringing it under the serious notice of the Commander-in-chief, Dervish Pasha.

The correspondents of the "Daily News" and "Standard," to whom I have addressed myself, have, however, assured me that, although they had made it their especial duty to examine into the matter whilst at Spuz, they had been unable to find that there was the slightest foundation for it.

Nevertheless, I need hardly assure your Lordship that, every time a case of savagery or insubordination on the part of the Turkish soldiery occurs in this province, I lose no time in drawing to it the attention of the military authorities; and it is certain that, whatever the private inclinations of the latter might lead them to permit, their instructions from the Porte are so stringent, that they evince the greatest anxiety to suppress all acts that tend to bring the Turkish name into bad repute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 530.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 7.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September* 28, 1876.

I HAD yesterday the honour to receive a telegram from Sir Andrew Buchanan, authorizing me to visit Prince Nicholas; and instructing me to tell His Highness that Her Majesty's Government has proposed to the Porte that peace should be concluded on the basis of the *status quo* as regards Montenegro; and to use all my influence in favour of pacific counsels.

I beg to assure your Lordship that I will do my best to justify the confidence which has thus been reposed in me by Her Majesty's Government.

I intend to start by the steamer of to-morrow morning for Cattaro; and hope to arrive at Cettigné on the afternoon of the 30th.

M. Durando, the Italian Agent, will probably follow me in a few days.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 531.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 6, 1876, 9·30 P.M.

MR. JOCELYN has carried out the instruction contained in your Lordship's telegram of last evening, and he has given a copy of it to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. I trust to be well enough to-morrow to be received by the Sultan.

No. 532.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 7, 2·8 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 7, 1876, 11·40 A.M.

IS it too late to separate the question of the conclusion of peace with the Principalities from that of the arrangements for the insurgent Provinces, which will cause the chief difficulty?

It would be very desirable if the preliminaries at least could be signed without waiting for Conference.

No. 533.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 7, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the Memorandum which your Excellency placed in the hands of the Porte on the answer to be returned by them to the proposal for peace advocated by Her Majesty's Government, a copy of which is contained in your despatch of the 25th ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 534.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September* 27, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for the information of your Lordship, copies of despatches addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, with copies of their inclosures, relative to the increase of crime, and to the temper of the Mahommedan population in my Consular district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 534.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot,

(Extract.) *Salonica, September* 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the extract from a letter which I have received from Monastir relative to the increase of crime and insecurity in that province, as reported by me to your Excellency in my cyphered telegram of the 9th instant.

There is a rumour that no less than sixty villages have been pillaged in district of Prisrend by Albanian irregulars returning from the seat of war. I cannot say if there is any truth in it, but I believe the attention of the Porte has been called to the bad state of affairs in Prisrend by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, who is said to have received a Report on the subject from his Vice-Consul there. And I learn that the Porte is sending out a Commissioner to make an inquiry and report upon the licentious conduct of these irregulars in that district.

Prisrend is under the jurisdiction of the Pashalik of Monastir.

Inclosure 2 in No. 534.

Extract of a Letter from Monastir.

Monastir, September 7, 1876.

LATELY the house of Christo Hanji, in the village of Tourbeli, in the Province of Bitolia (Monastir), has been broken into by about forty or fifty brigands. Christo Hanji himself along with his wife and his children they murdered, and stripped the house of every available piece of furniture, even to the very mats on the floor. A thing hitherto unknown in our parts, the brigands were headed by a trumpeter like the soldiers.

From Koritza there were some muleteers who were in the habit of visiting here, but who now, on account of the Bashi-Bazouks, have not appeared for two months.

In their place some Mahommedan muleteers began to come, but yesterday even these the brigands stripped naked, taking from them four horses, and about 200*l.*

On account of these things on the road, no one dares come and purchase merchandise. Business is at a standstill. People are even afraid to come out of their houses.

Dimos Joseph of Kirtzobo, who was member of the Local Council, and a merchant much esteemed, was killed in his own magazine. More at Demisar-Kalé, in village Balman, Province of Monastir, some brigands from Dibra came and surrounded the village and took sixty oxen and forty cows, and then returned freely to Dibra.

The local authorities did not pursue them a step. Here the authorities do not pursue the brigands at all, so that day by day things go from bad to worse.

A monastery of Kirtzobo in village of Boritz was plundered by the Albanians.

They killed the abbot and took away all the vessels and furniture of the church and of the monastery, and also all the cattle.

The Bishop of Kirtzobo is here at present, and is very indignant because all the peasants of his diocese suffer very much from the Mahommedans, so much that not a peasant will load his horse to go to the mill in order to grind a little wheat. They will meet him on the road and take both his horse and his flour.

But this is not so much to be wondered at, seeing that the Turks, great and small, go about the market armed and with freedom.

Inclosure 3 in No. 534.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, September* 25, 1876.

ON the 21st instant I addressed to your Excellency a telegram worded as follows:—

"I returned yesterday evening from the interior.

"From inquiries I made at Uscup, Pristina and Mitrovitza stations on the 19th instant among Mahommedans and Christians who had left district of Prisrend 18th instant, it appears the report about the pillage of sixty villages in that district is false."

I left Salonica on the 18th and returned on the 21st, going and returning by a special train which was placed by the Railway Company at the disposal of the Pasha of Salonica for his journey to Keupreuli, Uscup, and Mitrovitza, where he had business to transact with the military authorities.

I gladly availed myself of the Pasha's offer to accompany him on his trip, as it afforded me an opportunity of seeing something of the interior, and of making personal inquiries respecting the state of affairs at Prisrend—which is included in my Consular district—more especially in connection with the report of the pillages of sixty villages in that province. (The German Consul, Count Beust, was also of the party.)

I am satisfied from the information which I obtained at Uscup and the intermediate stations, and which was corroborated by Nousret Pasha, the Commander-in-Chief of the the troops at Mitrovitza (in whose word I have every confidence) and by Mahommedan and Christian peasants who had left Prisrend the day before I met them, that the above report was fabricated to serve a purpose, like so many other stories which have been palmed off for facts upon the public in Europe to gratify their morbid horror of the Turks.

But on the other hand there appears to be a lamentable increase of crime in the interior, especially in the vilayet of Monastir, which includes some of the most turbulent Albanian districts.

Bands of robbers infest the country in greater numbers than before, and the Albanians of Dibra, in particular, harass and plunder their neighbours with impunity.

The following extracts of letters, which I have received from the interior, illustrate the extent of insecurity which prevails in these parts :—

"*Monastir, September* 21, 1876.

"Murders are daily perpetrated in this province, and the authorities are very negligent, and take no measures to prevent the evil from growing worse.

"Last week I informed you of the robberies and murders committed by the Albanian marauders from Dibra. I now hear that at Perlepé the Christian Glegorios Danos Dimtzos was shot dead by a Mahommedan the 16th instant; and two other Christians, one from the village of Boutzin, and the other from Gostarzi, were murdered by Mahommedans. Also the Christian Giorgios Balmajis from Blatz, about an hour from the town of Koritza, was attacked and killed by robbers."

An English gentleman who has been three years in the interior writes to me as follows from Niausta, a district of Macedonia :—

"*Niausta, Monday morning, September* 18, 1876.

"There is a band of brigands in this neighbourhood composed of Albanian Turks and Greeks, sixteen in number (some say twenty-two). They have come from the direction of Mount Olympus.

"From what I hear they appeared first at Shell (a mountain district), where they got supplies. From there they went down to the plain as far as Stavros forest, and four days ago they were seen at a ruined village about three hours from here, in the hills. Yesterday morning they carried off Alizoti Bey, the proprietor of a large farm called Arkoodshori, one hour's distance from this town, in the direction of Veria. He is an Albanian Mahommedan. The brigands are supposed to have carried off their captive towads Shell, and away beyond.

"The head of the police here, with one or two policemen (there are only six quartered here), and some fifteen of the inhabitants started in pursuit. But it is very improbable that they will meet with the brigands.

"I saw the sub-Governor (Mudir), who seemed much disturbed by the news. It is very difficult to get people to leave their vineyards at this time to go after brigands, even on promise of payment.

"It does seem a great drawback to a place like Niausta, with all its advantages, that there should always be a feeling of uneasiness, not to say insecurity, among the inhabitants. I suppose the place will be quiet for a time, until the brigands appear again, and make another raid."

The capture of Alizoti Bey, for whose ransom the brigands demand 2,000*l.*, has caused great sensation among the Turkish proprietors in the country, and it is apprehended that further outrages will be perpetrated by this band, which I hear has been recruited by, and is under the leadership of, a certain Thoma, a notorious robber chief who very recently escaped from Greece.

The following extracts also furnish some information on the state of affairs in Thessaly and Epirus :—

"*Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.*

"*Larissa, September* 19, 1876.

"Last week some squabbles which occurred between soldiers and the Christians at Tirnova were most unjustifiably and ridiculously attempted to be magnified into a 'disposition to revolt' on the part of the latter, by the military and the subordinate authorities in that place; and some excitement was created by the arbitrary imprisonment of several respectable and innocent people.

"In the present temper of the Turks it is not surprising that affairs of this kind should happen, and during the Ramazan especially—which has just been entered—and with idle and ill-disciplined troops, quartered in all directions, they must be expected to recur. But they have no serious character; nor, with the vigilance always exercised by the chief military authorities, do I see reason to apprehend that they can lead to any serious disturbance of the quiet we have enjoyed, and which continues to prevail, in Thessaly.

"An alarm was spread some days ago that Caloyeros, with his brigands, had crossed from Kattrina, near Allasona, and taken up a position near Palamá. Troops and police were sent, and have returned after beating the country without finding any trace of the band.

"The Governor here was recently at Armyro, near the Greek frontier, to locate the batch of Circassians which was imported into Thessaly in May last, and temporarily distributed at Velestino. Remonstrances against their misconduct have led to their transfer to Armyro, where their presence will be no less unwelcome to their new neighbours, Mahommedans as well as Christians; and the Greek Consul informs me that his Government is repeating constant energetic protests against the introduction of this obnoxious element near to its border."

"*Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul Blunt.*

"*Prevesa, September* 16, 1876.

"From M. Kipriotis I heard the other day that not a single revolver, cartridge, &c., is to be had at Janina, as three days ago (he writes on the 7th instant) the Turks had bought the whole of them; and further, that the Christians are in great dread of being massacred by the Turks, owing to the above; and also on account of frequent nocturnal meetings held by the latter. But what I suspect is, that the events at Salonica, and more especially those in Bulgaria, have made the Christians somewhat nervous; and, as far as I am able to judge, I see no inclination on the part of the Turks to massacre anybody; and, on the contrary, the authorities, whenever an opportunity presents itself, are ever ready to take the most stringent measures to prevent any act of violence from being committed.

"This certainly takes place at Prevesa, but, at the same time, I must say that I am not in a position to state that this is executed all over the province; or that what M. Kipriotis reports is not worthy of being taken into consideration."

I also very much regret having to report that serious outrages and murders of an agrarian character have been recently perpetrated in the immediate vicinity of Salonica. I inclose the correspondence I have received on the subject from Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons, a British firm in this place. Some of their property has been wilfully burnt, causing a loss estimated by them at 600*l.*

I have addressed strong representations to the Pasha of Salonica in respect to this state of affairs, and warned him that if the guilty parties were not promptly apprehended and severely punished, I should consider the authorities responsible for the damages claimed by Messrs. Abbott.

His Excellency has ordered the district Governor to go to the spot, and to make an inquiry, and take measures for the apprehension of these outrages; but I do not anticipate that the action of the authorities, notwithstanding the pressure I am using, will meet with success.

The fact is the provincial authorities have not sufficient means of repression at their disposal.

The interior of this part of Turkey, with the exception of Thessaly and Epirus, is altogether denuded of troops, these having been despatched to the theatre of hostilities. Nor can the authorities or inhabitants rely much for assistance and protection on the local police, which, never very efficient in numbers or discipline, are now chiefly engaged in executing military requisitions. Thus the inhabitants are almost as the mercy of the criminal classes, the number of which is being largely reinforced, not only by disappointed

Bashi-Bazouks, who have been dismissed from the armies operating in Servia, but by hundreds of convicts, who were released on the accession of Sultans Murad and Hamid.

These adventurers and ruffians are ready to rally round any determined chief or chiefs who may be enticed by the present critical state of affairs, and the growing weakness of the provincial administration, to undertake marauding expeditions on a large scale.

This is a very dangerous state of affairs, and I need not point out how it might be made use of by designing parties to fan the national and religious passions of the Turks and Christians.

Already I observe signs that the Mahommedan mind is disturbed and very irritated by the rumours that are artfully propagated that they are threatened with expulsion from Europe.

If once this impression gains force among the people, and they are brought to imagine that the Christian Powers, including the British Government, will join in a crusade against them, their fanaticism may be awakened to a degree which may endanger the safety of the entire Christian population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 534.

Correspondence with Messrs. R. Abbott and Sons.

Messrs. R. Abbott and Sons to Consul Blunt.

Salonica, September 16, 1876.

ON Tuesday, 12th instant, at about 11 o'clock, P.M., two Turks armed, and on horse back, surprised sleeping one shepherd at Amatova, seized him, took his arms, and carried away six of his sheep.

The day before yesterday, at about noon, and ten minutes' distant from where this robbery took place, in the grounds of our neighbouring village Vardaroftza, a young man was shot dead by a Turk, for no other known reason except that he was a Christian.

Moreover, the maize-fields of Vardaroftza are crowded with Bashi-Bozouks, who desolate all the country round.

In stating these facts, we must add, that one Mr. Alfred Abbott, went out, and verified them himself; and he finds that our properties are no longer habitable on account of these continual unceasing crimes.

We think it our duty to bring these facts to your knowledge, protesting at the same time against whom it may regard.

Consul Blunt to Messrs. R. Abbott and Sons.

Salonica, September 16, 1876.

I have just received your letter of this date, and shall at once represent your complaint to the authorities, and urge that immediate steps be taken to seize and punish the guilty parties.

As I shall also report on the subject to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador, you would oblige me if you put me in possession of any further details you may obtain in respect to these or other outrages perpetrated in the vicinity of your properties.

Messrs. R. Abbott and Sons to Consul Blunt.

Salonica, September 16, 1876.

Immediately after sending to the Consulate our communication of this morning, on the subject of the crimes committed at Amatovo, we received the following afflicting news from our property, Cavalar:—

On the evening of last Thursday, Carayovan, Primate of the village, with his wife, were murdered, and their house robbed.

General opinion there points out as the assassins two Turks, who, protected by the Tchaoush of Langada, named Veli, were openly and for some time going from village to village trafficking in contraband tobacco.

Messrs. R. Abbott and Sons to Consul Blunt.

Salonica, September 21, 1876.

On Thursday, 14th instant, another Christian was murdered by the Turks in the village Bourfali, part of which belongs to us.

Also on Saturday night, the 16th instant, fire was set to our property at Amatovo, which destroyed our stables, with two horses, and four magazines containing cereals and divers implements belonging to us. The whole loss we think must amount to about 600 Turkish pounds, a detailed account of which we hope soon to receive from our Superintendent.

We consider, Sir, the Turkish authorities responsible for all these crimes, and ask them to pay us at once the material loss that this fire has caused us, protesting, at the same time, against the continual assassinations which are being committed by the Turks in our properties.

No. 535.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(Extract.) *Athens, September* 30, 1876.

IN my despatch of the 15th instant, and in despatches which I have since had the honour of addressing to your Lordship, I have endeavoured to report on the feeling created in Greece by the expressions of public opinion in England with regard to Turkey, and in my above-mentioned despatch I ventured to remark that if the public in Greece learn that Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria are to be granted the right of self-government an agitation will commence in the country with a view of obtaining a like concession for the Provinces of Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus.

That agitation has now commenced in earnest, and a meeting is announced for to-morrow, at which Messrs. Paparigopoulo, Kokuios, and Damalas, Professors of the University, are to speak, and are, I am told, to advocate the cause of the Christians in Crete, and in the Turkish provinces bordering upon Greece.

I have the honour to inclose, herewith, for your Lordship's information, translation, by Mr. Beauclerk, of an article published in to-day's "Stoa," pointing out the favourable opportunity which now offers for a rising on the part of Greece against Turkey, and the necessity of immediate action in order to check the progress of Slavism.

The Turkish Minister, whom I saw to-day, appeared very anxious lest the present agitation should lead to acts of aggression on the part of Greece.

Inclosure in No. 535.

Extract from the "Stoa" of September 30, 1876.

(Translation.)

FROM the above telegrams almost every hope of future peace is gone. The persistance of Servia, from whatsoever cause it may arise, is to-day the best and sole ally of Greece. The continuance of the war, if we are prudent, and if we take manly precautions, is destined to save Hellenism, now in danger of being extinguished. Let us awake! even if it be on the brink of the grave, to which we have pursued our course without looking a-head at all; continually feeding on sentiments, hopes, and the egotistical idea that we are "par droit de naissance" the natural successors to our crumbling neighbour. We must not lose even a day. We must concentrate our forces, and work with unwonted energy, perhaps even to hasten on events. The Chamber must commence its work immediately, from the very day of its assembling. Let both the Government and the Opposition summon the Deputies friendly to them to work together. The absence of the King has been prolonged more than it should have been. Let the different factions make their situations clear. It does not signify whether the Ministry of Coumoundouros remains, or whether it is succeeded by another. Whosoever becomes master of the situation must work, sustained by the confidence of the nation and of the King in his efforts. Let insignificant outside questions and minute differences be laid at rest, the new Byzantine race has triffled away sufficient time during the last forty years.

Above all, this day, daring and assurance in our just cause, conviction in subjected Hellenism, are required. Crete overcame Turkey during three years, and fell when we

were deceived and abandoned her. She did not yield herself. There are also Epirus, Thessaly, and Macedonia, mountain and men, to check the advance upon them of the disorderly hordes of Asia. If we have not disciplined troops, has Turkey got them? Are those disciplined troops which are assembled within a week's time, the Zebeques of the East, who are ordered up and sent into Servia and Montenegro? Is it not a shame that we should underrate our strength to such a point as this, whilst eighty battalions of Turks stand afar off looking on and trembling at the sword of Montenegro? And when has the Greek sword not been worth the mountain yataghan? We must confess it; as long as Servia holds in check the flower of the Turkish troops, our lot is not so hard as hers. Let us put all these things together. Never can a better opportunity present itself to us. Rising now with 100,000 men, it is as if at another time we rose with 300,000. Montenegro, Servia, and the exhaustion and trouble of Turkey make up for our weakness and disunion. Crete can conquer 50,000 Turkish soldiers! shall we not conquer 100,000? Those who undervalue our strength proportionately exalt that of Turkey, so that they believe, indeed, that Turkey can command at this time fifty thousand regular and disciplined troops; but if Turkey could command such a force, why should she not conquer Montenegro, which does not contain an equal number of women and children?

However, if there is not hope of our conquering Turkey, our boldness may check Slavism at the boundaries of Thrace and Macedonia. This victory is equivalent to two victories over the Turks. Europe who does not even remember our name will then study the map. For the present this suffices for all our sacrifices; but the future depends on our prudence.

No. 536.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

My Lord, *Paris, October* 6, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes came back to Paris this evening, and I went to him immediately, and, in execution of your Lordship's instructions, communicated to him the answer which has been made by Her Majesty's Government to the Russian proposal that an armistice or truce of six weeks shall be imposed on both Turks and Servians.

I said that Her Majesty's Government had determined to give their support to the proposal of an armistice of not less than a month, as the next step to be taken in the event of the rejection by Turkey of the terms proposed as a basis of peace.

I proceeded to tell the Duc Decazes that Her Majesty's Government considered that the armistice should be followed immediately by a Conference; and that you had instructed Sir Henry Elliot to intimate this to the Porte.

I added that your Lordship had informed the Russian Ambassador in London that Her Majesty's Government were unable to concur in the proposals made by Prince Gortchakow with regard to the occupation of Turkish territory, and the entrance of the united fleets into the Bosphorus.

The Duc Decazes authorized me to state to your Lordship that he would immediately send instructions to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to support energetically the demand for an armistice.

I observed to the Duke that your Lordship had also directed Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade to join his colleagues in pressing the Servian Government in the strongest manner to accede to an armistice; and I suggested that it would be desirable to send similar instructions to the French Agent at Belgrade.

The Duke readily agreed to send such instructions at once.

He observed that it was supposed that the Ottoman Ministers objected to the term "armistice" on the ground that the use of that word would imply a recognition of the Servians as regular belligerents, whereas in the eyes of the Porte they were simply insurgents. The word "truce," however, appeared to be regarded at Constantinople as comparatively unobjectionable.

I remarked, in answer, that the Russian proposal was for an armistice or a truce.

The Duc Decazes expressed his concurrence in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that the armistice should be followed immediately by a Conference. As matters stood, a Conference seemed, he said, to him to be in fact almost the only chance left of avoiding a recourse to force.

He spoke at some length of the inconvenience, and, indeed, danger, which would attend the occupation of Turkish territory by any of the Powers, or the entrance of the

fleets into the Bosphorus; and he appeared to be well pleased that Her Majesty's Government had not agreed to either of these measures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 537.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 7, 1876, 9·45 P.M.

I HAVE just returned from a private audience of the Sultan, at which I executed your Lordship's instructions of the 21st ultimo. I said that what had especially created general indignation was the fact of the Porte, which might be admitted at first to have been ignorant of the crimes committed, having done nothing to punish the guilty or to reward those who have prevented further excesses.

His Majesty promised that the measures of relief called for by your Lordship for the suffering Bulgarians shall be fully carried out and the guilty punished.

He said that a telegram had this morning been received from the Commissioners, stating that proceedings were now being taken against two of those chiefly implicated. His Majesty did not, however, name them.

I left him the names of those mentioned by your Lordship, with the exception of Hafiz Pasha, about whose conduct subsequent information made me feel some doubt.

I added other names to the list, and also gave the names of those who had endeavoured to protect the people from the Bashi-Bazouks.

No. 538.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 7, 1876, 10 P.M.

AT my audience to-day Sultan spoke of the ancient sympathies between Great Britain and Turkey, founded as he believed on common interests.

He could hardly understand how proposals which might have been expected from Russia could have been made by Her Majesty's Government.

I said that in the position of affairs it was necessary for your Lordship to bring forward the propositions to which you could secure the assent of the other Governments.

I told him that if his Government rejected those conditions, and at the same time refused to agree to an armistice, I had been instructed to leave Constantinople, as Her Majesty's Government could do no more to avert the ruin which such a decision would call down upon the Empire.

He said he could give no answer about the armistice, as his Ministers were then in Council deliberating upon it.

No. 539.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic,) *Therapia, October* 8, 1876, *noon.*

ON the 2nd instant I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Consul at Bosna-Serai, as follows:—

"Canon Liddon and a friend who went to Servia by the Bosnian frontier state that they saw examples of revolting cruelties practised by Turkish officers of regular army, who have impaled at all the military stations along the frontier men and women. Report as to truth of this statement."

On the 5th instant I received following reply:—

"Everything known here would make statement in your telegram of 2nd instant perfectly incredible but for the name of your Excellency's informant. I will write of this by next post."

No. 540.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 8, 1876, 12·45 P.M.

FROM a conversation that I have just had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs I have great expectation that the Porte will agree to an armistice.

I hope, also, that the answer of the Porte may be still so far modified as to be an acceptation rather than a rejection of the conditions of peace proposed by your Lordship.

Minister asked me whether, in the event of the conditions being accepted, a Conference would still be proposed.

I said that it had been talked of on the supposition of their rejection by the Porte, but I could not say what the decision of the Powers might be in the event of the Porte accepting the conditions as the basis of peace.

There is so much dread of a Conference that the hope of avoiding one by accepting the propositions has great influence on the Turkish Ministers.

No. 541.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1876.

I GATHER from your Excellency's telegram of the 6th instant that Count Andrassy has stated that he would not be disposed to assent to a Conference until he should be satisfied as to its composition and objects.

I am not surprised to learn that he should have expressed this hesitation, which is not unnatural, but I should wish you to explain to him that it had never been contemplated by Her Majesty's Government that a Conference should assemble until a basis should have been arranged which should define the subjects to be considered and secure their being confined within certain limits.

Her Majesty's Government expressed their opinion that, if the terms of peace should be refused by the Porte and an armistice accepted, a Conference should meet, because this appeared to them to be the best, if not the only, means of bringing about an agreement as to the course to be pursued, and because the meeting of the Powers in Conference would afford the best security that could be found against independent action on the part of any one Power without the consent of the others.

It is also obvious that the meeting of a Conference—a course which would be in accordance with usage on previous occasions, when the concert of the Powers has been desired on Turkish affairs—would have the advantage of affording time for the excitement in Russia to subside, which is now one of the principal obstacles to a pacific solution of existing difficulties.

Your Excellency will lay these considerations before Count Andrassy, and will explain to him that all that is asked of him at present is that he should not object to the principle of a Conference.

If he accepts that principle Her Majesty's Government will gladly join with him in endeavouring to arrange a satisfactory basis upon which the deliberations shall be regulated.

Concerted action on the part of the Powers is at the present moment of the most vital importance, as in the interests of peace it is essential that the Porte should not be encouraged to persist in an obdurate refusal of the terms of pacification and of the armistice by its supposing that the harmony of ideas which induced all the Powers to support the British proposals no longer exists.

Her Majesty's Government earnestly hope, therefore, that Count Andrassy will not use any language at Constantinople which could be so construed as to encourage further resistance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Substance telegraphed.

No. 542.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8, 11 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 8, 1876, noon.*

NONE of my colleagues, with the exception of the French Consul, have as yet received instructions to urge acceptance of armistice at Belgrade.

If Turkish Government should refuse a formal armistice, details of which to be effective must be arranged between Commanders-in-chief of the two armies, any steps taken here would only make matters worse between Russia and the Porte, and I have therefore asked Sir H. Elliot to inform me of the decision of the Porte.

The Russian Representative here can obtain Prince Milan's consent whenever he chooses; and the last informal truce would no doubt have been prolonged, and much useless bloodshed would thus have been avoided, if he had thought proper to put in a favourable word for it with Prince Milan.

No. 543.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

My Lord, *Vienna, October 3, 1876.*

WITH reference to Mr. Holmes' telegram, which your Lordship forwarded to me on the 1st instant, stating that a band of 1,500 men, supposed to have come through Austria, had appeared on the Brood Road, endeavouring to force the Christians to revolt, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Baron Orczy assures me that the Government here have received no information confirming this report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 544.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.— (Received October 9.)

My Lord, *Vienna, October 4, 1876.*

I HAVE been unable until to-day, to obtain any positive information at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as to the decision which has been taken by the Emperor's Government, respecting the proposal of Russia for the occupation of the northern European Provinces of Turkey. On calling however at the Ministry this morning, Baron Orczy stated to me, that Count Andrassy had authorised him to acquaint me with a communication, which the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires in London has been instructed to make to your Lordship on the subject.

He said that respecting the letter which had been addressed to the Emperor by the Emperor Alexander, and the answer which had been given to it, he had of course nothing to say; but that Count Soumarokoff had also been the bearer of a communication to the Austrian-Hungarian Government from the Government of Russia, by which it was proposed, in the event of the Porte giving an unsatisfactory answer to the proposals of the Great Powers, now under its consideration, measures should be taken to enforce its acquiescence in them; and suggesting that the most effectual means of doing so, would be the occupation of Bulgaria by Russian, and of Bosnia by Austro-Hungarian troops, while a combined fleet of the maritime Powers should enter the Bosphorus.

He said that I must be aware that Count Andrassy had always considered any occupation of Turkish territory would be inexpedient, and that such a measure would not be a satisfactory manner of pacifying the insurgent Provinces, or of introducing reforms into their administration; and his Excellency had therefore, he said, declined to adopt it, and had endeavoured to satisfy the Russian Government that the object which they have in view will be more safely and certainly secured by the employment of naval means alone.

I answered, that I felt assured, from what is known to Her Majesty's Government of the opinions of Prince Gortchakow, that the limitation, desired by Count Andrassy, of coercive measures to the appearance of an allied fleet in the Bosphorus, would be assented to at Livadia; but I asked whether his Excellency had fully considered how his suggestion was to be carried out; did he expect thus to avoid war, and that the Government of the

Sultan would permit a fleet, evidently intended for a hostile purpose, to pass the Dardanelles unresisted. As Baron Orczy answered that he thought resistance improbable, since to oppose the passage of such a fleet would be to declare war against united Europe, I said that the Sultan would have a more immediate danger to apprehend under the circumstances than even a war against Europe. The people of Constantinople believed that the Dardanelles could not be forced, and the appearance, therefore, of an hostile fleet before Constantinople, which had been allowed to pass the Dardanelles without resistance, would evidently be followed by a justifiable outbreak of popular indignation against the Sultan and his Ministers, who would probably be sacrificed as traitors.

On the other hand, I said, it appeared to me that a naval demonstration from Besika Bay would prove ineffectual, as if the Porte is deterred now by public opinion from accepting the proposals of the Powers, it would be equally so, on the appearance of the fleet before the Castles of the Dardanelles, which the population of Constantinople would believe it could not pass; and if this should be so, the Powers would then be obliged to carry out their menace, and a war would ensue, the commencement of which would probably be made memorable by the loss of several of the vessels of the allied fleet, and, if the Turkish Government still resisted on its arrival at Constantinople, by the Christians of the capital as well as the Turks having to suffer the disastrous consequences of a bombardment.

I said that I was entirely ignorant of the opinions of Her Majesty's Government on this subject, and as to the answer they were likely to give to the overtures made to them. But it appeared to me, that the considerations, which I had just suggested to him, should be duly weighed by Governments desirous of coercing the Porte without their measures actually culminating in war. I then said that your Lordship had sent instructions yesterday to Sir Henry Elliot, to warn the Porte against persisting in its announced intention to refuse the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, as the alternative scheme of general reforms and a note is certain to be considered inadmissible, and that much more onerous terms of peace will undoubtedly be afterwards proposed, and pressed upon Turkey very probably by force.

I said I feared it was more to be desired than to be hoped that this warning may have some influence on the Turkish Ministers, and the question will probably then arise as to whether the concessions it has made are entirely unacceptable. I should, therefore, like much to know Count Andrassy's views on this point, and whether he is of opinion that some means may be found of effectually securing out of the institutions offered by the Sultan for the Provinces of the Empire generally, all that has been claimed for the three northern ones. Baron Orczy appeared not to know what decision his Excellency is likely to come to on the subject; but he would mention to me confidentially that the Servian Government is greatly discouraged by the recent events of the war, and has again appealed to the Government of the Emperor to use its influence at Constantinople with a view to the restoration of peace. It is, therefore, most desirable that the Porte should assent to such an armistice in Servia, as she has already done in Montenegro, and if it were granted he believed that the other points at issue would be more susceptible of an arrangement.

I told his Excellency that I had found the Turkish Ambassador, whom I met in his ante-room, highly pleased at learning that Count Andrassy had refused to occupy Bosnia, and confident that Austria would not be a party to any hostile measures against the Porte; and I had, therefore, cautioned him not to make himself responsible for the expression of such an opinion at Constantinople. I asked Baron Orczy, however, whether Count Zichy is not in a position to urge on the Porte its assent to an armistice, in return for the service rendered to it by Austria, in declining to occupy Turkish territory. But his Excellency said that if Count Zichy were to take credit for the decision of his Government as a friendly act towards Turkey, it might lead the Turkish Ministers to place confidence in the opinion which Alecko Pasha will possibly express to them, that Austria-Hungary will not be a party to enforcing on the Sultan the adoption of the proposals of the Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 545.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

My Lord, *Berlin, October 3, 1876.*

EDHEM PASHA, the Turkish Ambassador, communicated this morning to Herr von Bülow a telegram stating that the General Council adhered to the Hatti-Houmayoun and confirmed the reforms granted to all the Provinces of the Empire, and that their decision would be officially communicated by identic notes to the Embassies at Constantinople.

The terms of Peace and the Protocol recommended by the Powers were not more admissible than the Berlin Memorandum, and could therefore not be entertained by the Porte, but the scheme of general reforms about to be applied to the whole Empire would meet all the legitimate wishes and wants of the Sultan's subjects. The telegram made no allusion to the armistice.

Herr von Bülow has communicated the Turkish Ambassador's message to Prince Bismarck, who is still in the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 546.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

My Lord, *Berlin, October 4, 1876.*

THE German Acting Consul at Salonica having reported that the family of the late Consul is exposed to annoyance by the threats of fanatical Mussulmans, the German Government have ordered a man-of-war, now stationed at Smyrna, to be sent to Salonica for their protection, as well as of the Consulate and of the German subjects residing there generally.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 547.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

My Lord, *Berlin, October 6, 1876.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's telegraphic instructions, I informed Herr von Bülow to-day of the answer your Lordship had given to the Russian Government through Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh respecting the Czar's proposal to the Guaranteeing Powers that further bloodshed should be immediately arrested by imposing an armistice or truce of six weeks on both parties so as to give the mediating Governments time to consider the means of definitively arranging the pending questions.

Her Majesty's Government have decided, I said, to give their support to the proposal of an armistice of not less than a month, as the next step to be taken in the event of the rejection by Turkey of the proposed terms for a basis of peace, but that Her Majesty's Government were unable to concur in Prince Gortchakow's previous suggestion respecting an occupation and the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus.

I also stated that Her Majesty's Government considered that the armistice should be followed immediately by a Conference, and that your Lordship had instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to intimate this to the Porte.

Herr von Bülow, in reply, said that he would at once transmit your Lordship's communication to Prince Bismarck, who is at Varzin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 548.

Ali Pasha, Governor-General of the Herzegovina, to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October* 9.)

(Télégraphique.) *Mostar, le 7 Octobre,* 1876.

DE Trébigné on me mande que le 4 et le 5 courant les Monténégrins ont ouvert le feu contre nos positions de Saslap, et que les nôtres y ont répondu. Hier un corps ennemi est venu attaquer Jurinje, dont quelques maisons furent brûlées. Des dispositions ont été prises pour repousser cette attaque.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Mostar, October* 7, 1876.

I AM informed from Trebigné that on the 4th and 5th instants the Montenegrins opened fire on our positions at Saslap, and that our troops responded. Yesterday a body of the enemy attacked Jurinje, and some houses were burnt. Measures were taken to repulse this attack.

No. 549.

Ali Pasha, Governor-General of the Herzegovina, to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October* 10.)

(Télégraphique.) *Mostar, le* 8 *Octobre,* 1876.

SUITE de mon télégramme d'avant-hier :—

" 'Bulletin de Trébigné' annonce que ce matin l'armée de Moukhtar Pacha a pris d'assaut les retranchements de Nomadich et Boyanobrdo, entre Grahovitza et Grahova. Les Monténégrins, après avoir subi de fortes pertes, se sont enfuis en désordre en laissant une grande quantité de munitions et d'armes entre les mains des troupes Impériales. Hier la garnison de Liubigne avec la population a repoussé les insurgés, qui s'enfuirent vers le Monténégro."

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Mostar, October* 8, 1876.

IN continuance of my telegram of the day before yesterday :—

" News from Trebigné announces that this morning the army of Moukhtar Pasha took by assault the entrenchments of Nomadich and Boyanobrdo, between Grahovitza and Grahova. The Montenegrins, after suffering severe losses, fled in disorder, leaving a large quantity of munitions and arms in the hands of the Imperial troops. Yesterday the garrison of Liubigne with the aid of the population repulsed the insurgents, who fled towards Montenegro."

No. 550.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 9, 1876.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 25th ultimo, and I approve of your intention to see that the vacancy on the Commission sent to Bulgaria by the Porte, caused by the ill-health of one of the Christian members, is filled up by another person of the same belief.

With regard to your statement that 200 Circassian irregulars have been sent to the district of Philippopoli, I have to remark that Her Majesty's Government had understood that the use of these irregular troops would be discontinued.

If the irregular troops referred to are of the same class as those by whom the atrocities were committed, your Excellency will protest in the strongest terms against their employment in defiance of the public opinion of Europe and in disregard of the assurances given by the Porte to your Excellency.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 551.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 9, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador, who returned to his post yesterday, called upon me to-day, and read to me a despatch from Count Andrassy to Count Wolkenstein, dated the 17th September, with the contents of which I understood that it was intended I should have been made acquainted at the time of its receipt.

The despatch sets forth the objections of the Austrian Government to the proposal of administrative autonomy for the insurgent Provinces of Turkey, which Count Andrassy states that they cannot accept as a satisfactory programme. The term is vague, capable of contrary interpretations, may be construed to mean less than the Powers have asked or the Porte has granted, or may, on the contrary, be taken to signify a real and complete autonomy. But, in the latter case, the Christians would at once ask for the removal of the Turkish troops, a concession which the Porte could not make.

The vagueness of the proposal would excite hopes which it would be impossible to realise; and this with a suffering population is always dangerous. But even supposing that the proposal could be put into a definite and practical shape, who is to compel the Porte to accept it?

Is the British Goverrnment prepared, Count Andrassy asks, to use force in order to compel the acceptance of these conditions? Can it do so, and yet maintain the integrity of the Turkish Empire?

These are points, Count Andrassy thinks, on which we ought to be clear before committing ourselves to any course such as that proposed, otherwise the Christian population will be led to expect more than can be given them, and will refuse to be satisfied with the concessions which are really practicable. Unless we are prepared to say that the Turkish Empire must fall, we cannot go beyond certain limits, and must confine ourselves to such conditions as can be imposed upon the Porte by pacific means, and by the moral pressure which a common action of all the Powers must exercise.

The proposals of reform put forward last winter by the Austrian Government, Count Andrassy says, were accepted by the insurgents as in their essence sufficient; all that they required was that there should be guarantees for their due execution. The same proposals would probably be accepted now. They are clear, precise, and easy to carry into effect. The term autonomy, on the other hand, seems to the Austrian Government to have no signification unless it means the cessation of Turkish power.

The acceptance by the Austrian Government of the proposal for local autonomy as subsequently defined and explained seems to have deprived this despatch of most of its practical importance for present purposes; but I told Count Beust that I would take note of the reasons which had induced his Government to hesitate in giving their assent.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 552.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 9, 1867.

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon by appointment upon his return to his post, and read to me a telegram which he had received from Count Andrassy, giving the reasons of the Austrian Government for objecting to the plan of a Conference to meet on the conclusion of an armistice between Turkey and her opponents.

Count Andrassy asks what would be the object of the deliberations of the Conference. The Powers are already agreed upon the basis of peace. The question to be discussed, therefore, is that of the means to be employed in order to bring the Porte to accept these conditions. And upon this question another instantly arises. Is Turkey to be represented at the Conference? If she is so represented, she must appear on an equality with the rest, and upon that footing she is not likely to concede to the representations of a Conference, in which there are sure to be differences of opinion, that which she has refused to the united demand of Europe. If, on the contrary, she is excluded from the Conference, she will draw from this a legitimate argument for denying its competency, and we are once more in presence of the problem of employing measures of coercion.

We must also consider, says Count Andrassy, the difficult position in which the

Emperor Alexander will be placed in case the Porte refuses to submit to the decisions of a Conference. The Emperor Alexander is desirous of peace, but we know also that he is being urged in a contrary direction.

The Austrian Government state, however, that they do not wish to thwart the action of England, and are only anxious to have a thorough understanding upon the whole question.

They wish, therefore, to know—

1. Whether the Porte is to take part in the Conference?
2. Where the Conference is to meet?
3. If the Conference is to be composed of the Foreign Ministers of the respective countries, or of Plenipotentiaries?
4. What is to be the programme of the Conference?

It will depend upon the information derived from the answers to these questions whether they can waive the objections they now entertain to the idea. Until then they are of opinion that a Commission at Constantinople, such as had previously been suggested, would be a preferable plan, and would more profitably employ the time allowed by the armistice.

As Count Beust did not ask for an immediate reply to the above queries, I told his Excellency that I must reserve my opinion on the first point, namely, whether or no the Porte should be represented in the Conference. It would be necessary to ascertain the views of other Powers, which were still unknown to me.

As to the second question I must equally reserve a final expression of opinion; but, personally, I was inclined to think that Constantinople would be on various accounts the most convenient place of meeting.

As to the third, I considered that the personal attendance of the various foreign Ministers at a Conference whose sittings might last some time, would be in many respects unadvisable.

As to the fourth, I agreed in the view which I understood to be that of Count Andrassy, that a Conference without a basis was not likely to lead to good results; and I thought that a programme, more or less definite, ought to be agreed upon before it met; but the terms of such programme would require care in framing, and I could only say that it should be submitted to the Powers in due course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 553.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 23, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of my despatch of this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, respecting further excesses of Turkish troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 553.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, September* 23, 1876.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram to Lord Derby, dated the 17th instant, reporting the inquiries of Sir Arnold Kemball on the subject of Turkish outrages on women, &c., I regret to have to bring to your Excellency's notice the following list of outrages as more particularly calling for inquiry:—

1. The killing in Rashan of the Secretary to the Serb Red Cross Society, Luka Popovitch, with special cruelty when his left arm was cut off. The details were referred to by M. Ristich in his letter to me, of which I had the honour to send your Excellency a copy.

2 The barbarous proceedings of the Egyptian Cavalry (regulars), near to Alexinatz, when three wounded Servians were tied to trees by ropes and roasted to death on the 2nd or 3rd of September; Mr. Villiers, the Special Artist of the "Graphic," saw these

bodies and sent a sketch of this horrible spectacle, which appeared in No. 355 of that illustrated paper on the 16th instant.

The third crime of which the Turkish troops are accused (besides many others) was committed near Yankouo Clissoura in the month of August, when a young Christian girl of 16 was horribly outraged by some Turkish soldiers, who, after violating her person, left her bleeding with her body split up in the centre, and her flesh and skin hacked with sabres on her back.

She died a few days later in a Servian hospital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 554.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 24, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of my despatch of this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, respecting the diminution of chances of peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 554.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, September* 24, 1876.

THE last six weeks have produced an important change in the affairs of Servia.

The greatest apprehensions were then entertained that the Turkish army was about to penetrate into the interior of Servia, and, under the influence of that fear, the conclusion of an early peace had strong support in the country, and the Prince himself was inclined to favour it.

Matters have altered completely since. The civil Government has ceased to have a voice in public affairs; the presence of Russian officers, some of them officers of the Imperial Guard, the courage and enthusiasm with which they are animated, the growing influence of the Slavonic Committees through their agents, have all given a warlike tone to what is called public opinion here; and the slowness with which the Ottoman troops have followed up any of the advantages gained by their superior infantry has made the Servian hopes revive to a degree hitherto unknown.

If peace on the basis of the *status quo* had been offered to Servia a month ago, it might have been easily accepted, and there would have been hardly any opposition to it.

Things are very different now; the Russians present here say openly that it is their aim and object to prevent the conclusion of peace.

A week ago, when General Tchernaieff proclaimed Prince Milan as King of Servia in the army, this act met with but little echo at Belgrade.

Two days ago the members of the National Assembly present here voted an address, asking the Prince to assume the regal title; and great efforts are being made to commit the Ruler of this Principality to it.

Everything of course depends on the result of the negotiations now going on at Constantinople; but should these be broken off, it is expected that Russia will assume openly a hostile attitude towards the Porte.

In that case matters would be rapidly precipitated here; Prince Milan would then follow the invitation of his army and leave Belgrade, proclaiming his Royal title before his departure; the capital would be transferred *pro tem.* into some town in the interior, where the chiefs of the Administration would take up their residence.

Of course it may be hoped that all these dangers can be avoided if the Porte accepts the recommendations of the friendly Powers; but if the Imperial Government should not listen to these amicable councils, and if Russia should be left free to act in open hostility to the Porte, Servia, and possibly Roumania would probably act as allies of Russia and declare their independence as kingdoms; it is only with a view to such a contingency that the strange pronunciamento of General Tchernaieff's army can have any importance.

A few days more will throw undoubtedly light on these proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 555.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord. *Belgrade, September 25, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of my despatch of this date addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, respecting the refusal by the Servian Government of a prolonged armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 555.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Belgrade, September 25, 1876.*

I HAD the honour to receive from Semlin this morning your Excellency's telegram, dated the 24th instant, 6 P.M., by which you informed me that the "Porte has consented to a further suspension of hostilities to the 2nd October, and had sent orders to the commanders not to resume the offensive without distinct orders."

I immediately went to convey to M. Ristich this information; but, on being shown into his reception room, he appeared accompanying Prince Milan, and an interview of an hour followed.

The Prince, having listened to my communication, stated at once that he entertained the strongest objection to any renewal of suspension of hostilities in this informal manner.

His Highness admitted his willingness to have a regular armistice concluded, but he argued at some length on the impracticability and inconvenience of the one which had terminated this morning, to which he entertained the greatest objection from a military point of view.

He said he had telegraphed last night to General Tchernaieff that he was at liberty to recommence hostilities, and he admitted having heard from the General that Turkish watering parties had been fired upon, and he saw in this a fresh proof how unadvisable it was to enter into vague and undefined arrangements of this kind.

The last time I had seen the Prince was on the 24th of August, when he had convoked the Consular Body to ask for the good offices of the Six Guaranteeing Powers, and he therefore took this opportunity to make me feel that one month had fully elapsed since that day, and that he had as yet not received any information as to the result produced by that application on his part.

From different sources I had heard how Prince Milan's feelings had been worked upon in the meantime against any suggestions tending to pacification.

I placed before the Prince the reasons which I thought most likely to induce him to give his sanction to this temporary and informal arrangement, and then begged of him to let me have some answer which I could transmit to your Excellency and to Lord Derby.

The Prince said that, from a military point of view, he had a decided objection to the issuing of these orders, but that, owing to the political interests at stake, he would consult with his Ministers, and let me know his determination.

If I do not hear of it before the messenger passes Belgrade in the night, I shall inform your Excellency by telegraph.

I presume that the determination of the Prince of Servia at this point will entirely depend on the recommendations of the accredited Agent of the Emperor Alexander here, and on the advice given him by his Russian friends.

No. 556.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 28, 1876.*

I HAVE had the honour to report to your Lordship that the Prince of Servia has not only shown no inclination to entertain the offer of the Porte to extend for another week the suspension of hostilities, but has even declined to re-consider this decision on his part,

when pressed to do so at an interview I had with him yesterday, in company of my Italian colleague.

The latter, who has been long acquainted with Prince Milan, took this opportunity to employ most convincing language, to impress upon him how desirable it was that he should show deference to the friendly advice of Her Majesty's Government, whose good offices had been so actively employed in favour of Servia.

Should your Lordship think it an appropriate occasion to inform the Italian Government of the co-operation I received on this occasion from Count Joannini, even though our persuasions were ineffectual, I should feel particularly grateful for such an acknowledgement.

I cannot help thinking that, as long as Russian advice is different, there is not any hope of stopping the useless effusion of blood going on here.

I have expressed to the Prince and to M. Ristich the views of Her Majesty's Government on this occasion, as instructed by your Lordship's telegram of the 27th instant, and I have declared to them that a renewal of hostilities "will throw on them the responsibility of the consequences." I was, however, assured by them that the Porte had delayed too long this offer of renewal, as these had been actually recommenced, and it was now too late to stop them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 557.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October* 2, 1876.

THE first week of the suspension of hostilities terminated on the 25th of September, and hostilities recommenced on the Morava Valley on the next day by a general attack on the part of General Tchernaieff's army.

On the 29th the Turks resumed the offensive, and there was heavy fighting on both occasions, but both parties appeared to have retained all their fortified positions, so that the only result of these consecutive engagements has been a large and wanton loss of life on both sides.

The season is getting so advanced, and the slowness and indecision of Turkish movements has hitherto proved so great, that it is highly improbable that they will be able to accomplish anything decisive or significant this year.

It appears even possible that the difficulties of the Turkish transport service may force the Ottoman forces to retire back upon Nisch, in which case the military position of both sides would revert, after three months' fighting, to exactly the same *uti possidetis* as before the war.

The Servians, on the other hand, cannot expect to do anything more this year, though General Tchernaieff continues as sanguine as ever.

As it is now evident that the great political questions at issue cannot be affected by what the Serbs may do or not do by themselves, and that the war on their part is merely continued owing to the wishes of the war party in Russia, it appears most desirable that the Powers should agree to some collective decision by which this wanton bloodshed should be either interrupted for the winter or definitely stopped.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 558.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October* 4, 1876.

AS might naturally be expected, the special mission of General Soumarokoff at Vienna has produced considerable interest here.

This General is the same Envoy who represented the Emperor Alexander at Prince Milan's marriage at Belgrade, in October, 1875, and your Lordship will find in my despatches some indications of the importance which was attached to his mission at the time.

A great deal of what has happened since, and more especially the supremacy of

Russian influence in the mind of Prince Milan and among his immediate counsellors, may be traced to that memorable visit.

It was supposed that General Soumarokoff would repeat his visit here to represent his Imperial master as sponsor at the baptism of the infant prince, but it appears that M. de Kartzoff, my Russian colleague, will have the honour to represent his Sovereign on this occasion.

The importance and delicate nature of the General's mission to Vienna left him no time to revisit Belgrade.

It is extremely probable that this Government obtained timely information of his mission to the Austrian Court, and that the hint conveyed on that subject from Livadia was not altogether lost when Prince Milan thought proper to refuse the prolongation of a suspension of hostilities proffered by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 559.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October 4, 1876.*

IT may be interesting for your Lordship to hear that money appears abundant in the the Servian Exchequer, and though the Ministers deny that it is derived from Russian sources, it is quite impossible to account in any other way for its origin.

Large commands have been made for a winter campaign, and though it is impossible to prove whether the foreign subsidy is derived from the Slavonic Committee or from Imperial coffers, the native resources are not sufficient to explain the abundance of money.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 560.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October 5, 1876.*

FROM many symptoms which have recently come under my information I am satisfied that it would be most desirable in the interest of Europe, of Turkey, and of Servia herself that peace should be promptly restored to the Principality.

I am quite convinced that is the real desire of a numerous class of the people of this country, but these are overawed by the decided tone of the more noisy patriots and by the presence of so many boisterous Russians.

Russian blood and Russian money is flowing, but many Servian patriots feel that the result may be very different from what they anticipated when they commenced hostilities.

Putting aside for the moment the local Servian concerns, I must place on record my serious apprehensions that a focus for Slavonic agitations is being created here under direct Russian influence which may in the long run affect the future of all neighbouring countries.

The Servian peasants may gradually become permeated with new ideas, and though the Civil Service will continue discontented, a Russian administration will gradually replace these. The priest and schoolmaster are even now attached to Russia, and this transformation is proceeding so rapidly that I cannot comprehend how Austrian and Hungarian statesmen can view it with such apparent equanimity.

Surely this is not purely a Turkish question; some people have objected to a creation of an independent South Slavonic Kingdom, but instead of one with feelings of self-respect, they are permitting the progress of ideas alike fatal to Turkey, and to such a creation; but instead of it fostering influences conducive to the extension of Russian power to a degree hitherto unknown in these parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 561.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, September 25, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed copy of a despatch with one inclosure addressed by me to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the 20th instant, giving a history of the massacre of Vratza in May last and reporting on the present state of the Vilayet.

Rifaat Pasha, who visited Vratza, has been promoted to the Governor-Generalship of this Vilayet.

I have. &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 561.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, September 20, 1876.*

THE inclosed translation of the statement of one of the first Bulgarians of Vratza on what occurred there in May last, has been put into my hands.

The tale it tells appears to be so straightforward and unvarnished that it needs no comment on my part.

I am constantly hearing of facts that clearly show that the inland parts of this vilayet continue to be in a state of the greatest insecurity, chiefly from the gross neglect of the authorities. And people even say that this state of things is purposely kept up so as to prevent as many as possible of the recent sufferers from coming to where they might meet those who would listen to and perhaps forward their grievances elsewhere.

The war and other taxes and impositions, I hear, are also being peremptorily levied, and I am assured that many who have lost their all and cannot of course pay are treated with great severity. In fact from all I have heard I am convinced that there is at present in force inland a system that, should the insurrection be renewed, will bring on a far worse state of things than hitherto.

The local authorities here, as usual, deny everything, and if a Turkish Commissioner is sent here alone he goes to the konak, and bases his reports on what he hears from the local authorities; thus the Porte is left in complete ignorance of what it may have cause to regret.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE

Inclosure 2 in No. 561.

History of the Massacre at Vratza, in the Vilayet of the Danube.

A FEW days after St. George's day, Rifaat Pasha, the Mutessarif of Widdin (now Governor-General of this vilayet) came to Vratza, assembled the leading men of the Bulgarian community, and told them that he had learnt that there was an insurrectionary movement in their town, asked them if they had any knowledge of it, and advised them to make the parties known, and desist from such an undertaking.

The leading men said that they had no knowledge whatever of any restlessness in their midst, and to prevent any attempt in this direction, they begged the Mutessarif to send them a detachment of troops. The Mutessarif left, the troops were sent, and everything remained quiet, everyone followed his own occupation.

On the 19th of May (o.s.) a detachment of Bashi-Bazouks arrived (to look for insurgents from the Raditzky). One of the inhabitants, a Turk, went to the Kaïmakam and told him that he had seen an insurgent enter a certain house. The proprietor of the house was called, and a demand was made that the insurgent secreted in his house should be delivered up, or else the house would be burnt. He assured them that he had no knowledge of such a person being in his house. The house was then surrounded and forcibly entered, and a young man of 17 years, who had been teaching the smallest children of the town at the salary of 100 piastres per month, and had just gone a little previously to this house for some corn, intending to sow it, was forcibly dragged to the konak. On the way there, everyone, young and old, who was found in the street, was either shot or cut down, to the number of about sixty, with yataghans. Among them there was a priest, 80 years of age, who was crossing the street from the church. The

cries of the wounded, and the wailing of their friends, filled the town. Partly from terror, and partly from sympathy for the wounded and bereaved, the business men closed their shops, and gathered their corpses to the church for interment.

Not long after, the crier of the town proclaimed through the town that a mistake had been made, and that the business places should be opened, and that everyone should follow his occupation. The people naturally hesitated. This was considered an act of insubordination, and, consequently, the town was looked upon as insurrectionary, whereupon arresting commenced. People were taken from their houses, their families, their tables, and put in prison. Their houses were completely ransacked in the search for supposed arms and ammunition, of which, however, none were found, but the valuables were carried off, which can be proved from the fact that, some time after, the Vali of Rustchuk demanded, by telegraph, that the arms taken from the insurgents at Vratza should be sent to Rustchuk. The reply was that no arms were found. A further proof of the innocence of these people is shown in the fact that, from the 115 arrests made of the survivors, and examined before the Special Commission for trying insurgents, not one was found guilty.

To make it appear that they were caught in mountains, they were stripped of their clothes to the shirt and drawers, put into irons and chains, and sent off to Berkootcha. While on their way to Berkootcha, they were treated most barbarously. One man, who is still in Rustchuk, became deaf in consequence of being repeatedly raised up by his chain through the grating of his prison window.

Their treatment on the way from Berkovtcha to Widdin was more humane; their escort allowing them to drink water and eat bread.

At Widdin the Pasha ordered them to be put into the Changuri-Serai, almost naked and bare-footed. They were for hours exposed to the burning heat of the sun, without a drop of water or morsel of bread to revive their failing strength. The deprivation and suffering which they endured during their imprisonment of sixty days, are indescribable, and can be judged from the fact that several of them have died, others are still sick, and several are enfeebled for life.

It is very evident that the cause of this horrible abuse and spoliation of so much property was the fact that the Bulgarian inhabitants of Vratza, by their industry and economy, have increased in wealth and property, and thereby created an envy on the part of their Turkish neighbours, who, at the same time, have been sinking deeper and deeper in poverty. Fifty years will not be sufficient to restore the flourishing condition of Vratza and vicinity to that state in which it was five months ago.

With all the loss and ruination, Vratza and the villages in its vicinity are overrun to-day by employés of the Government engaged in gathering by force the dues for the Government. In the natural scarcity of cash, sheep are taken at the value of 15 piastres (about 2*s.* 6*d.*), and grain at 30 piastres per kilog. To-day the military force kept at Vratza to keep the peace, where never a disturbance existed, is quartered in private houses throughout the town, while there are khans in the town capable of quartering 10,000 soldiers.

The two persons principally charged with the horrible visitation of Vratza, are the Mudir of the telegraph and the Kaïmakam.

The sole reason why Berkovtcha has not suffered the fate of Vratza is to be attributed to the wisdom, humanity, and caution of its Kaïmakam.

No. 562.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 26, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a despatch from Acting Vice-Consul Calvert upon the measures that are being carried out for the relief of the inhabitants of the desolated districts.

The Mr. Clarke mentioned in it is an agent employed by the Relief Committee which has been organized here, but Mr. Calvert also reports what is being done by the Turkish authorities.

Midhat Pasha, to whom I spoke yesterday of the urgency of adopting measures both for the relief of the sufferers and for the punishment of the guilty, told me that the Commission now at Philippopoli had instructions and authority to carry them out.

Timber for rebuilding the houses was to be provided by the Government, and the

Mahommedans would be required to assist in the works. The Mixed Commission will, he believed, conscientiously carry out its instructions.

With regard to the proper punishment of the guilty it is likely that much difficulty will be experienced.

I informed your Lordship that Chefket Pasha, notorious for his proceedings at Boyadjikeui, had been dismissed from the Palace, but he was afterwards named a member of the Military Council, and is still retained upon it, although frequent representations have been made to the Porte that in the face of the grave charges against him his employment till he had cleared himself was almost a defiance of public opinion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 562.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, September* 20, 1876.

IN regard to the distribution of succour in this "Sandjak," I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the authorities of Bazardjik have formal orders from the "Mutessarif" here to provide Mr. Clarke, of Samakow, with every assistance and protection he may require while engaged in relieving the villages of that "Caza."

I was informed by Mr. Clarke, who, before starting on his mission, came to Philippopolis last Friday to ascertain what measures had been taken for his protection, that when he visited the village of Batak a week previous, inhabitants of the place were returning thither from other localities, where they had taken refuge; that he had found there Edhem Agha (the "Yuzbashi" of zaptiehs), who, as mentioned in my despatch of the 29th August, was entrusted by Blacque Bey with the task of collecting and restoring stolen property, who had succeeded up till then in restoring 300 head of cattle to the village; and that eighty reapers had arrived there, sent by the authorities to reap the crops.

Mr. Clarke knew nothing of the circumstances mentioned to me by the Mutessarif here, and referred to in my despatch, that forty-five horseloads of household objects had been lately disinterred by the inhabitants of Batak.

Mr. Clarke started from here on his return to Batak on Friday afternoon, and should have arrived there the following day.

According to the Governor of Philippopolis, whose statements I have hitherto found on the whole to be tolerably correct, considering the channels through which he must get his information, the amount of utter destitution calling for relief in the villages of Bazardjik and Philippopolis will not be very considerable, as the majority of these villages will have their autumn crops to subsist upon during the winter, and besides the pecuniary aid that has been given by Government, the collection of tithes and other taxes has been suspended.

The official statement of the assistance that has up to the present been granted by the Government to the distressed villages is as follows:—

A sum of 700,000 piastres was sent from Constantinople; of this 300,000 piastres was forwarded to Bazardjik, and the remaining 400,000 piastres kept for the villages of the Philippopolis "Caza." Only 219,000 piastres of the latter sum has been as yet spent, chiefly in buying cattle to enable the people to harvest their grain, and it has been divided among the following twelve villages:—

	Piastres.
Chemlek or Choumlouk..	8,000
Leshna	24,400
Ouzoundja	16,800
Kazariska	10,030
Peroushtizza	43,400
Krastovo	2,000
Aivadjik	18,400
Zingirly	6,000
Pastounitza	2,000
Laritza	2,000
Eureïli	10,000
Yessi-Coron	30,000
	173,030
For bread, further sum of	41,865
For miscellaneous wants	4,750
Total	219,645

The authorities here have as yet no account of the manner in which the 300,000 piastres sent to Bazardjik have been spent.

I have not yet had the means of verifying the above official statement, except in the case of two villages, Eureïli and Yessi-Coron. Inhabitants of these villages inform me that 10,000 and 30,000 piastres have actually been paid to them respectively to purchase cattle.

As regards the official assertion that the collection of taxes was suspended, I have questioned peasants from several of the burnt villages, and they agree in stating that a month or two ago they were forced to pay the taxes, but that now these are now longer demanded.

The villages (like Clissura Dervent) which depended exclusively on the production of attar of roses, the Governor is of opinion are more in need of help than the grain-producing villages.

The Philippopoli Relief Committee, under the presidency of M. d'Istria, the French Consul, is now providing for 102 destitute women and children, chiefly from Peroushtizza and other villages in the immediate neighbourhood of this place. These poor people are housed in the asylum which the Committee has opened here, and are supplied with every necessary. The building is now almost full, but I have heard members of the Committee complain that the Turkish authorities will not allow the destitute to leave their villages in order to come here for relief. I have not in any instance been able to discover that such is the case, however: all the peasants whom I have interrogated assuring me that no impediment is raised to their coming hither by the authorities. It is probable, nevertheless, that the destitute in the more distant villages are deterred from leaving by the dangers of the road, and by want of means.

The present object of the Philippopoli Committee is to succour exclusively women and children whose bread-winners have been removed by death or imprisonment. The recipients of relief will be maintained at the expense of the Committee during the winter only, and in the month of May will be sent forth to earn their own living. In the meantime all who are capable of working are supplied with employment, chiefly spinning, by which they can earn from 60 paras to 2 piastres a day, so that, when thrown once more on their own resources, they may have a small capital to begin with.

In my despatch No. 5 I stated, rather prematurely, that the Committee had opened an asylum at Bazardjik also; this asylum was opened only two or three days ago, and has not yet any inmates. It is destined chiefly for the destitute of Batak. The Committee intends, as soon as its funds allow, to open a third asylum at Carlowa.

The Turkish Commission, under Sadoullah Bey, arrived here yesterday, and this afternoon will start for Bazardjik, on their way to Batak, which is the first place they will visit. I learn from Sadoullah Bey that the Commission will visit all the ravaged districts, with a view to appointing local Committees to superintend the distribution of relief and the rebuilding of houses. The Commission is provided with a sum of 3,000*l.* Turkish for immediate distribution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 563.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 26, 1876.

THE entirely untrustworthy report of Edib Effendi upon the occurrences in Bulgaria was published by the Porte and forwarded to your Lordship at the time.

The report of the two Christian Commissioners afterwards sent to Philippopoli has not been published, but I have been able to ascertain its nature.

The instructions of the Grand Vizier to these gentlemen were that they should discover the real truth of what had occurred, should state the facts plainly, and should denounce the persons whom they found to have been guilty of excesses, without regard to their rank or position.

They appear to have executed these instructions conscientiously, and in a very different spirit from that of Edib Effendi, to the untrustworthy nature of whose report, they, if I am not mistaken, allude.

With regard to the villages where the principal scenes of slaughter occurred, their account does not appear to differ materially from that of Mr. Baring, and they denounce

the same individuals as the instigators of them, but as respects the number of persons who perished, their estimates differ greatly from his.

The village of Batak, for instance, which consisted of 490 houses, contained, as proved, they say, by the registers of the military exemption tax, little more than 2,800 inhabitants, while many of those supposed to have perished are still in the neighbouring villages, from which they had caused to be brought back sixty-eight young women and children who had been dispersed among them when there was no shelter for them in their own homes.

These were probably the same as those alluded to by Mr. Baring.

Be this as it may, the conduct of those who are responsible for the massacre is stigmatized by the Turkish Commissioners very much as it has been by Mr. Baring, and they show that the villagers had given up their arms before they were attacked, and that men, women, and children were ruthlessly slaughtered by the Bashi-Bazouks led by Ahmed Aga, his son, and his son-in-law.

The report speaks of the women and children that had been killed without, however, as far as I can learn, mentioning outrages upon them, but if the Government is as determined as it professes to be to punish the guilty, sufficient material will be found for fixing upon them, and bringing their crimes home to them.

This latter duty will fall upon the Commission which has been since sent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 564.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 28, 1876.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 26th instant, I sent Safvet Pasha the inclosed letter, urging the acceptance of the conditions of peace proposed by Her Majesty's Government in view of the imminent danger of foreign intervention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 564

Sir H. Elliot to Safvet Pasha.

Mon cher Ministre, *Therapia, le 27 Septembre*, 1876.

J'AI parlé l'autre jour à vous et à Midhat Pacha de la disposition qui existe en certains quartiers d'arriver à une intervention active dans vos affaires; et un télégramme que je viens de recevoir me prouve que ce désir s'accentue de plus en plus, et que nous sommes arrivés au point où une menace de pression matérielle n'est plus qu'une question d'heures dont rien ne pourra vous sauver que l'acceptation immédiate et complète des conditions proposées par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté.

Quoique je vous donne cette information très confidentiellement vous pouvez la regarder comme absolument correcte.

Tout à vous,
(Signé) HENRY ELLIOT.

(Translation.)

My dear Minister, *Therapia, September* 27, 1876.

I SPOKE to you and to Midhat Pasha the other day of the disposition that exists in certain quarters to bring about an active intervention in your affairs; and a telegram which I have just received proves to me that this desire is becoming more and more pronounced, and that we have arrived at a point when a menace of material pressure is only a question of hours, from which nothing can save you but the immediate and complete acceptance of the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

Although I give you this information very confidentially, you may look upon it as absolutely correct.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 565.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 29, 1876.

I WENT yesterday to the Porte to urge again the necessity of the immediate acceptance of the conditions proposed to it by your Lordship and supported by the other Powers.

Safvet Pasha was not at his office, but I had a long and earnest conversation with Midhat Pasha, who dwelt upon the obstacles caused by the word autonomy and by the demand that the arrangements should be consigned in a Protocol to be signed between the Porte and the Powers.

I showed him that the explanation of the term administrative autonomy deprived it of all character which the Porte could regard as dangerous, and that with regard to the Protocol, what was now asked was no more than what had been done when the regulation about the Lebanon was made in 1861.

I told him that the communications I had received from your Lordship left no doubt that the acceptance of both these expressions was indispensable, and that the refusal to entertain them would be regarded as a rejection of the proposals that had been unanimously concerted by the Powers, and would certainly quickly be followed by measures of coercion which the Porte ought to make any sacrifice to avert.

Nothing could now save the country from the danger that was threatening it, but a frank and full acceptation of the proposals without change or modification.

Midhat Pasha then spoke of the premium which would be held out for future insurrection if the provinces which had remained quiet saw extensive reforms granted to those which had risen, at the demand of foreign Powers and guaranteed by them.

I answered that the decision which the Grand Council had come to two days ago disposed of this difficulty to a great extent; for if even a larger measure of reform and of control than had been asked for by the Powers as regarded the insurgent provinces was to be generally applied, there was no reason why the Porte should not answer that, these being resolved upon for the whole Empire, it would be ready to record in a Protocol that they should be applied to the insurgent provinces, as well as the other measures promised by the Porte in February last.

The Powers would, I believe, be satisfied if the Porte stated this somewhat in the terms contained in a paper of which the copy is herewith inclosed.

I had consulted Count Zichy about it, and he had said that he could not doubt that it would be considered satisfactory.

Midhat Pasha was evidently more than half convinced that no other course was open than that which I had pointed out, but he would not commit himself too far without consultation with his colleagues.

On my return home I wrote the letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, to Safvet Pasha whom, as I have said, I had failed to see; and he will probably convey the substance of it to the Grand Council which it is intended to assemble to-morrow.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 565.

Draft Declaration.

LA Sublime Porte acceptant la médiation des Puissances pour la conclusion de la paix se déclare prête à en signer les préliminaires sur les bases proposées par Lord Derby.

La Porte ayant déjà décidé l'adoption pour toute l'étendue de l'Empire d'un système d'autonomie administrative telle qu'elle est expliquée dans la susdite proposition ne fera pas de difficulté à constater par un Protocole à signer entre elle et les Représentants des Puissances Médiatrices que ce système sera appliqué aux provinces insurgées, ainsi que les réformes déjà promises dans la réponse à la communication du 30 Décembre.

(Translation.)

THE Sublime Porte, accepting the mediation of the Powers for the conclusion of peace, declares that it is ready to sign preliminaries on the bases proposed by Lord Derby.

The Porte having already decided on the adoption for the whole Empire of a system of administrative autonomy, as explained in the above-mentioned proposition, will not object to assert in a Protocol to be signed by her and the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, that this system shall be applied to the insurgent provinces, as well as the reforms already promised in the answer to the communication of the 30th December.

Inclosure 2 in No. 565.

Sir H. Elliot to Safvet Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Therapia, le 28 Septembre*, 1876.

J'AI beaucoup regretté de ne point vous trouver au Ministère, où je me suis rendu pour tenter un suprême effort pour vous engager dans la seule voie qui pourra encore sauver votre pays des plus grands malheurs.

Vous êtes à la veille de prendre une décision sur laquelle pourra dépendre l'avenir ou peut-être même l'existence de l'Empire, et ce n'est que par un sacrifice comparativement léger, plutôt d'amour propre que d'intérêt, que vous pouvez vous dégager d'une responsabilité terrible.

Il paraît que dans les propositions de Lord Derby il y a deux expressions qui vous font hésiter: l'une est "l'autonomie administrative" et l'autre le "Protocole" à signer, mais, mon cher Ministre, vous devez bien reconnaître que l'explication qui accompagne la première lui ôte toute signification qui aurait pu vous paraître dangereuse.

De même pour le Protocole.

Les Puissances ne demandent que ce qui a été fait en 1861, quand l'arrangement pour le Liban a été consacré par un Protocole signé le 9 Juin de cette année.

Vous prendriez, il paraît, l'engagement demandé sous une autre forme, et sur cette simple question de forme vous mettrez en péril les intérêts les plus sacrés de l'Empire!

Je ne veux pas le croire.

Vous connaissez les efforts persistants de mon Gouvernement pour amener à une solution pacifique la crise par laquelle nous passons, mais Lord Derby m'a fait distinctement comprendre que toute chance de succès dépend de l'acceptation franche et complète de la Porte des propositions telles qu'elles ont été concertées par les Puissances.

Ainsi donc, mon cher Ministre, au nom de mon Gouvernement et au nom de l'intérêt que je porte personnellement au salut de cet Empire, je vous engage encore une fois de ne pas laisser échapper ce qui pourra bien être la dernière occasion de sortir de vos difficultés.

Je vous prie, &c.
(Signé) HENRY ELLIOT.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre, *Therapia, September* 28, 1876.

I WAS very sorry not to find you at the office, where I went to make a last effort to induce you to take the only course which can still save your country from the greatest misfortunes.

You are on the eve of taking a decision on which may depend the future, even perhaps the very existence of the Empire, and it is only by a comparatively slight sacrifice, rather of *amour propre* than of interest, that you can relieve yourself of a terrible responsibility.

It appears that there are two expressions in Lord Derby's proposals that make you hesitate. One is "administrative autonomy," and the other the "Protocol," to be signed; but, my dear Minister, you must surely recognize that the explanation which accompanies the first takes from it all meaning which might seem dangerous to you.

The same with the Protocol.

The Powers only ask for that which was done in 1861, when the arrangement for the Lebanon was made binding by a Protocol, signed on the 9th of June in that year.

You are prepared, it appears, to pledge yourselves, in some other manner, to the proposed engagements, and on this simple question of form will you imperil the most sacred interests of the Empire?

I cannot believe it.

You are aware of the persistent efforts of my Government to bring to a peaceful solution the crisis through which we are passing, but Lord Derby has given me distinctly to understand that any chance of success depends on the frank and complete acceptance by the Porte of the proposals as concerted by the Powers.

Thus, then, my dear Minister, in the name of my Government, and in that of the interest that I personally feel for the welfare of this Empire, I again entreat you not to let pass that which may well be your last opportunity of escaping from your difficulties.

I beg, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 566.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 29, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a report from Mr. Sandison, respecting the present state of public feeling among the Mahometan population.

It is probable that there may be exaggeration of the danger to which the great body of the Christians is exposed; but when the excessive weakness of this Government in the means of protecting them in many parts of the country is taken into consideration, there can be no doubt that their position will be rendered extremely critical, if, after the language that has of late been employed in England, measures should appear to be in progress for giving a practical effect to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 566.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Therapia, September* 28, 1876.

NOT to speak of the tone and spirit of the Turkish press in general, including the official organs, the violent opposition made at Tuesday's General Council to anything like local or administrative autonomy to Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, plainly shows the national determination to resist any concessions that might place those Provinces in an exceptional position.

Whilst the true meaning of "administrative autonomy," which, though sufficiently explained, continues to be misunderstood by many, the general prejudice against the term itself is so very strong that there is not a Turk who would now acquiesce in its adoption. Then, again, whilst some suppose it to be fraught with danger to the rest of the Empire, and others consider it unbecoming to the national dignity, the majority of the Mussulman public, including the officials of all ranks, are unanimous in saying that they would rather face the dangers with which they are threatened than consent to administrative autonomy for Bosnia, &c.

Thus the reforms which have already been sanctioned quite recently shall, they say, apply to all the provinces alike, but in no other form, and under no other denomination than that proposed by the General Council held at the Porte on Tuesday last.

Three Ministers of State, whose views I heard on the subject, were all of one mind, in stating that if, in the face of the reforms which have just been granted, Europe would not be satisfied, neither the nation nor the Government could possibly go any further. Nor did their Excellencies, speaking for themselves and for the country, make any secret of their determination to abide the worst consequences of a foreign invasion rather than submit to the course now recommended.

The cause of justice being at the same time on their side, every Mussulman, including themselves, down to the lowest official, would know how to struggle in the defence of his country; but if Europe wished for a crusade, as its attitude seemed to imply, she should not lose sight of the safety of the Christians in Turkey if the object in view were not so much to avenge as to protect them.

The feeling of superiority and exasperation prevailing amongst the Mahometans in European Turkey may not, they said, be without its dangers, and the day may come that, before the Powers are in time to pour in their armies, not a Christian may be found surviving. Such might also be the fate of the Christians inhabiting Asia Minor, the Turks may be driven from thence too, but they cannot all perish, and they hope to meet with sympathy and hospitality in other Mahometan countries, such as Persia, Central Asia, and, perhaps, even India.

Such is the language held by Ministers of State, which I feel it my duty to report to

your Excellency, and such, I may say, have been the insinuations of some Ministers under Mahmoud Pasha's administration.

They are typical, indeed, of the national feeling, which is undoubtedly getting stronger every day; and nothing in the face of it is likely to prove more dangerous to the Christian element than a foreign invasion or occupation at the present juncture.

A *levée en masse* of the Mussulman population would not, under the circumstances, be at all improbable, inasmuch as the Turks are already beginning to call for the unfurling of the Prophet's standard, because they suspect that danger for the true faith and for national existence lies already at their door. Whilst these notions cannot but render stronger the feeling of religious fanaticism amongst the Mussulmans, the greater must be the perils which threaten the defenceless Christians.

I have ventured to express these views because I already hear of irritation prevailing on one side, and uneasiness on the other; and it may, perhaps, be as well that I should quote the words of a good authority in these matters, who, writing from Salonica on the 24th instant, says :—

"The speeches and pamphlets which are published, and the agitation prevailing in Europe, may yet do a deal of harm, and may be followed by atrocities far more bloody and extensive than those which were provoked in Bulgaria; if once the idea gains ground amongst the Mahometans that their expulsion from Europe will be attempted, God protect the Christians. From sheer despair there may be an upheaving of Mahometan fanaticism, which may extend to more than one country."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 567.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 30, 1870.

AT the invitation of the Austrian Ambassador I called with him on the Grand Vizier this morning, when the conversation which ensued was so nearly the same as that which I have already reported as having passed between Midhat Pasha and myself, that it is needless to repeat it to your Lordship.

Count Zichy was very energetic in demonstrating the necessity for the Porte of not hesitating in regard to the Protocol, and to the expression of administrative autonomy, as applied to the arrangements to be made for the insurgent provinces.

The Grand Vizier said that the Grand Council, which was to have been assembled to-day, had been postponed till to-morrow, as the papers connected with the new reforms, which had been sent to the Sultan, had not been returned from the Palace.

I took the opportunity of pointing out how extremely undesirable it was that the consideration of questions, such as those now before us, should be referred to an assembly constituted like the Grand Council.

They were matters upon which the Sultan's Ministers, with the full knowledge they possessed of the true situation, were alone capable of forming a proper judgment, and they ought not to shrink from the responsibility of taking the steps called for by the vital interests of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 568.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 30, 1876.

MY other despatches which will reach your Lordship by the present messenger will satisfy Her Majesty's Government that I have spared no effort, nor the exercise of such personal influence as I possessed, to induce the Porte to give an unqualified assent to the propositions brought forward by the united European Cabinets.

I have been able to do so not only as a simple act of duty in carrying out your Lordship's instructions, but as conscientiously believing that no other course can now save this Empire, and perhaps Europe, from an imminent danger.

At the same time I cannot but express my fear that the apprehensions felt by the

Porte of some consequences likely to result from the proposed measures are based upon too good grounds.

I have already informed your Lordship of the effect produced upon the Greeks of this country by the impression that the Slav Provinces were, at the demand of the foreign Powers, about to be endowed with special autonomic institutions, and your Lordship has also learnt from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens the excitement that is being caused in Greece by this news.

Nothing can, I believe, avert the insurrection in the Greek provinces and islands, which is likely to be fomented from Greece, but the application to all parts of European Turkey of the reforms demanded for the insurgent provinces; but even this will leave the former in an exceptional and comparatively disadvantageous position, by the reforms granted to the Slav Provinces being recorded in a Protocol signed by the Powers, which will give a guarantee that they will not themselves possess.

The Protocol will constitute an infringement of the provisions of the Treaty of Paris; for it will confer upon the Powers the right of interference in the internal administration, from which by that Treaty they were debarred.

The non-execution of the promises, upon the faith of which the Powers had engaged not to interfere, may have deprived the Porte of the right of invoking that engagement; but it will be a very serious matter if, as I assume from the language of the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, it is intended that the proposed Protocol is to be considered as putting the administration of the provinces under the practical control or protection of the foreign Governments, to which all grievances complained of, whether real or imaginary, are to be referred.

Much of what is worst in the administration of the Turkish provinces is the consequence of the deplorable weakness both of the Central Government and of the local Governors, and anything that tends still further to diminish their authority will be injurious rather than beneficial.

Your Lordship will find this opinion strongly and repeatedly expressed by Mr. Consul Holmes, who has probably a larger experience in Bosnia and the Herzegovina than any other person that could be found.

If the people get the privilege of sending Delegates to a Central Assembly at Constantinople, by which they will be able to bring to the knowledge of the Porte much that at present never reaches it, there is reason to hope that great practical benefit to them will be secured.

The object to be kept in view is the improvement of the whole provincial administration and the establishment of a state of things under which all classes of the population shall live together on equal terms; but if one of these classes is to be looked upon as protected by the foreign Governments, and the other by the local Governors, no satisfactory relations can permanently be established between them, although a hollow truce might temporarily be enforced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 569.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 2, 1876.

IF the article from the newspaper "Neologos," of which an extract is inclosed, represents as correctly as I believe the universal feeling of the Greeks upon the present position of affairs, and upon the manner in which special privileges to the Slavs will be looked upon by them it merits the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 569.

Extract from the "Neologos" of September $\frac{11}{23}$, 1876.

(Traduction.)

LA POSITION ACTUELLE DE LA QUESTION D'ORIENT.—LA politique pacifique de la Grèce a empêché l'embrasement de l'Orient d'un bout à l'autre, et a limité la lutte dans les

provinces du nord de la Turquie beaucoup plus efficacement que ne l'a fait la diplomatie; sans cette politique pacifique la lutte se serait très vite répandue en Thessalie et en Epire, en Albanie et en Macédoine, en Candie, et, peut-être, dans d'autres localités.

Le motif qui a poussé la nation Grecque et la Grèce à cette politique pacifique était double: la Grèce était tenue de soumettre sa politique à la politique de l'Europe, s'efforçant à limiter la lutte et à écarter la guerre Européenne. En second lieu elle était tenue d'avoir en vue des raisons non pas d'une humanité factice, mais réelle; et de considérer que si le soulèvement d'un petit nombre de Bulgares a fourni le mot d'ordre à d'effrayantes cruautés, le soulèvement des Grecs réduisant au désespoir les populations Musulmanes aura pu produire une destruction et une désolation sans exemple dans les chroniques de l'histoire.

Au mois de Mai l'anarchie existait déjà à Constantinople et dans les provinces. Toute la population Musulmane était armée, et si le soulèvement Bulgare a provoqué tant de représailles, que la philanthropie Britannique se fasse une idée de ce qui serait arrivé si le mouvement Grec venait à se joindre au soulèvement Bulgare; si la Grèce en faisant ces sacrifices pour les intérêts de l'humanité a renié ses droits nationaux, s'en suit-il que les Grecs verront sans s'émouvoir la partialité de la diplomatie Européenne en faveur des provinces Slaves, qui n'ont pas subi plus de malheurs que les provinces Grecques, ni ont versé plus de sang pour leur autonomie nationale? Non, la Grèce et la nation Grecque ont cédé au vœu général de l'Europe poursuivant la conservation du *statu quo* et la régénération pacifique de la Turquie. Aussi longtemps que ce *statu quo* est conservé, la Grèce et les Grecs n'entendent point mettre des obstacles à ce développement pacifique; mais s'il s'agit de déranger ce *statu quo*, si la diplomatie Européenne croit le moment venu pour procéder à la concession d'autonomies à telle province ou telle autre, la nation Grecque, qui a la juste prétention d'avoir inscrit dans son histoire 400 ans de luttes sanglantes, et chez qui il y a plus d'éléments pour la conquête de son autonomie que toutes les autres populations qui habitent le même pays, ne tolérerait pas qu'elle soit traitée moins bien que ces populations. Plutôt que subir cette humiliation et la confiscation de ses droits nationaux au profit du Panslavisme, elle préférerait la lutte suprême et le carnage que la diplomatie s'efforce de prévenir dans les provinces du nord de la Turquie d'Europe, se propagerait dans les provinces du sud, le long de la Mer Egée et dans l'Asie Mineure.

Personne en pareille circonstance ne serait pas justifiée de blâmer l'élément Grec. Il sacrifie, il est vrai, et il sacrifiera, ses tendances au *statu quo*, mais il ne le ferait jamais si le *statu quo* étant dérangé, la diplomatie Européenne accordait à d'autres ce qu'elle lui refuse. La Grèce ne renie point sa politique pacifique en tant que l'Europe ne renie pas la principe du *statu quo*, avec l'amélioration générale du sort des Chrétiens, mais si l'Europe venait à renier ce principe, la Grèce n'aurait aucune raison de persister dans sa politique en se suicidant au profit du Panslavisme.

Nous avons vraiment pitié de la diplomatie Européenne, si en fermant les yeux à cet état de choses elle venait à déranger le *statu quo* en faveur d'un seul élément ou plutôt si par la création de petits Etats autonomes, elle perpétue le carnage en Orient et le danger d'une guerre Européenne, en réalisant, elle-même entraîné, hélas! par des hommes tels que Gladstone, les vues séculaires de la politique Russe. L'existence d'un tel Orient rendrait le pays composé de petits Etats faibles incompatible avec aucun développement, et elle le mettrait à la merci de la Russie.

(Translation.)

THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE EASTERN QUESTION.—THE pacific policy of Greece has prevented a universal conflagration throughout the East, and has confined the contest within the northern provinces of Turkey much better than diplomacy has done. Without this pacific policy the contest would quickly have spread into Thessaly and Epirus, Albany, Macedonia, Candia, and perhaps into other localities.

The motive which has impelled the Greek nation and Greece towards this pacific policy was a double one. Greece was bound to subordinate her policy to that of Europe, with the object of limiting the contest and of avoiding a European war. In the second place, she was bound to have in view real reasons, not those of a factious humanitarianism, and to reflect that if the rising of a small number of Bulgarians was the signal for shocking cruelties, the rising of the Greeks by reducing the Mussulman populations to despair, might produce destruction and desolation unexampled in the chronicles of history.

In the month of May anarchy already existed at Constantinople and in the provinces. All the Mussulman population was armed, and if the Bulgarian rising has provoked such reprisals, let British philanthropy form an idea of what would have happened if the Greek movement had been superadded to the Bulgarian rising; if Greece, in making these

sacrifices for the interests of humanity, has abjured her national rights, does it follow that the Greeks will see unmoved the partiality of European diplomacy for the Slav provinces, which have not suffered more than the Greek, nor shed more blood for their national autonomy? No, Greece and the Greek nation have yielded to the general wish of Europe to preserve the *statu quo* and the pacific regeneration of Turkey. So long as this *statu quo* is preserved, Greece and the Greeks have no intention of putting obstacles in the way of this peaceful development, but if it be a question of disturbing the *statu quo*, if European diplomacy thinks that the moment has come for granting autonomies to such and such a province, the Greek nation, which has the just pretention to have inscribed on the tablets of its history 400 years of bloody wars, and in whom there are more elements for the conquest of autonomy than in all the other populations who inhabit the same country, would not tolerate being worse treated than those populations. Rather than submit to this humiliation, and the confiscation of her national rights for the advantage of Panslavism, she would prefer that a war of extermination, and that the carnage which diplomacy is trying to prevent in the north of European Turkey, should spread into the southern provinces along the Ægean Sea and into Asia Minor.

No one, under such circumstances, would be justified in blaming the Greek element. It sacrifices, it is true, and it will continue to sacrifice its own wishes to the *statu quo*, but it would never do this, if the *statu quo* were once changed, and European diplomacy were to yield to others what it refuses to it. Greece will not withdraw from her pacific policy so long as Europe does not withdraw from the principle of the *statu quo*, hand in hand with the amelioration of the lot of the Christians; but were Europe to withdraw from this principle, Greece would have no reason to persist in her policy and commit suicide for the good of Panslavism.

We should really feel contempt for European diplomacy, if, whilst shutting its eyes to this state of things, it were to derange the *status quo* in favour of one single element, or, rather, if by creating small autonomous States, it perpetuates the carnage in the East and the danger of a European war, all the while realising—led on, alas! by men like Gladstone—the secular views of Russian policy. The existence of such an East would make the country to consist of little feeble States incapable of any development, and would place it at the mercy of Russia.

No. 570.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 1, 1876.

ABOUT a fortnight ago Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P., in passing through Constantinople, placed in my hands some papers containing accounts of acts of atrocity and plunder, said to have been committed by Turkish irregulars and Circassians upon the Christian inhabitants of several villages of the Dobrudscha in the neighbourhood of Toultcha, Rustchuk, and Varna.

Copies of the documents are herewith inclosed, which I at once communicated to Mr. Consul Reade and Mr. V. C. Dalziel, while I directed Mr. Consul Sanderson, who was then on his way to his post at Galatz, to proceed to Toultcha, and inquire into the truth of the cases which were said to have occurred in that neighbourhood.

I have not yet received Mr. Reade's Report, but the reply of Vice-Consul Dalziel and the telegram from Mr. Sanderson, of which I inclose copies, sufficiently prove the stories relating to their districts to be unfounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 570.

Information communicated to Sir H. Elliot by Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P.

ON écrit de Toultcha, le 2 Septembre, 1876 :—

1. La Dobroudja n'a pas encore eu des commissaires Anglais et Americains pour y faire des enquêtes sur les atrocités des Turcs et cependant le fanatisme Mahométan fête dans la Bulgarie Nord-Est les mêmes orgies que dans les autres parties du pays. Quoiqu'il n'y ait pas eu ici un soulèvement, les Bachi-Bozouks et les Circassiens ont commis les mêmes horreurs que partout. Ils ont brûlé les villages Nejkovo, Medven, et Gradetz.

Comme ailleurs, ils ont dishonoré des filles agées plus de dix ans et les femmes; ils ont coupé en morceaux les autres enfants et les ont brûlé sous les yeux de leurs mères. Les filles qui se distinguaient par leur beauté ont été vendues par les Circassiens sur les places publiques, en présence même des autorités. Ces scènes cannibaliques se sont répétées aussi dans les villages Dragojevo, Preslav, Devnja, Imerleri et Tachatepe. Les plaintes portées sur ces faits révoltants au Mutessarif à Choumla sont restées sans effet; au contraire les plaignants ont été jetés dans la prison comme trompeurs et calomniateurs. Il y a 15,000 fuyards Bulgares dans la Dobroudja qui sont venus des suivants villages situés au pied du Balcan: Kotel, Teravna, Katouniste et Tehterene. Beaucoup de ces pauvres gens ont été massacrés en route, les autres sont exténués de fatigue et de privation et n'ont pu sauver le moindre objet de leurs biens. A Silistria on a aperçu beaucoup de cadavres sur le Danube, et on a reconnu dans ces cadavres les pauvres Bulgares arrêtés et amenés à Roustchouk il y a quelques semaines. Tous les cadavres avaient les mains liés au dos. L'autorité de Silistria a défendu aux habitants de tirer ces cadavres de l'eau.

2. Dans le village Kazil-Murad (Novo-Selo) district de Razgrad, un Turc vient chez un Bulgare, et sans que celui-ci ait eu la moindre créance à lui acquitter, le Turc lui demande quinze livres. Le Bulgare sachant que toute opposition serait inutile, puisque l'autorité Ottomane ne le prendrait jamais sous sa protection, et n'ayant pas l'argent à la main, prie le Turc d'attendre une quinzaine de jours, jusqu'à ce qu'il aura vendu le blé de son grenier. Après ce délai, le Bulgare n'ayant pas pu vendre son blé, il met à la disposition du Turc ses bœufs et d'autres objets. Celui-ci refuse à les accepter et promet au Bulgare qu'il lui montrera la vengeance Turque. En effet, le paysan Bulgare se trouvant un jour avec sa femme, son fils, sa belle-fille et quelques enfants au champ, le Turc, accompagné de quelques de ses compatriotes, armés tous jusqu'aux dents, se présentent là tout-à-coup, tuent d'abord les hommes en leur faisant sortir les entrailles, déshonorent après les femmes et leur coupent enfin la gorge ainsi qu'aux enfants. Jusqu'à ce jour les assassins se promènent librement et se vantent de leur bravoure. L'autorité Ottomane ne bouge pas même du doigt; on trouve cette barbarie inouïe à sa place, car il ne s'agit que de ghiaours.

(Translation.)

INFORMATION to the following effect has been received from Toultcha, September 2, 1876:—

1. The Dobroudja has not yet been visited by English and American Commissioners to inquire into the Turkish atrocities, and yet Mahomedan fanaticism celebrates the same orgies in the north-east of Bulgaria as in other parts of the country. Although there was no rising here, the Bashi-Bazouks and the Circassians have committed the same horrors as everywhere else. They burnt the villages Najkovo, Medven, and Graditz. As elsewhere, they violated girls over ten years old, and women; other children they cut to pieces and burnt in the sight of the mothers. Girls who were good-looking were sold by the Circassians in the public places, in the very presence of the authorities. These scenes worthy of cannibals were also repeated in the villages of Dragojevo, Preslav, Devnja, Imerleri and Tachatepe. The complaints made as to these revolting acts to the Mutessarif at Choumla have been disregarded; nay more, the complainants were even thrown into prison as deceivers and calumniators. There are 15,000 fugitive Bulgarians in the Dobroudja, who came from the following villages situated at the foot of the Balkans: Kotel, Tcravna, Ratouniste, and Tchterene. Many of these poor people were massacred on their way, the others are worn out with fatigue and privation, and have not been able to save the least remnant of their property. At Silistria many bodies have been seen in the Danube, and these bodies have been recognized to be those of the poor Bulgarians who were arrested and taken to Roustchouk a few weeks since. All these corpses had their hands tied behind their backs. The authorities of Silistria forbad the inhabitants to take these bodies out of the water.

2. In the village of Kazil-Murad (Novo-Selo), district of Raygrad, a Turk went to a Bulgarian, and, althongh the latter owed him nothing, asked him for 15*l*. The Bulgarian, knowing that all resistance would be useless, since the Ottoman authorities would never protect him, and not having the money at hand, begged the Turk to wait a fortnight, until he had sold the corn in his granary. After this delay the Bulgarian, not having been able to sell his corn, put his oxen and other property at the disposal of the Turk, who refused to accept them and promised to show him what Turkish vengeance was. In short, the Bulgarian peasant, being one day with his wife, his son, his daughter-in-law, and some children in the field, the Turk, accompanied by some fellow-countrymen, all armed to the teeth, came upon them suddenly; first killed the men by disem-

bowelling them, afterwards violated the women, and finally cut their throats as well as their children's. To this day the assassins walk freely about, and boast of their exploit. The Ottoman authorities do not stir a finger. They think this horrible barbarity appropriate, for it only affects Ghiaours.

Inclosure 2 in No. 570.

Further information communicated to Sir H. Elliot by Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P.

LA situation malheureuse des Bulgares n'est pas changée et chaque jour nous voyons se repéter les mêmes drames sanglants et la même tactique chez les Turcs dans leur conduite envers les Bulgares.

Nous vous donnerons en appui de ce que nous avançons quelques faits.

Le 15 Août, dans le village Yagabie, une heure distance de Roustchouk, les Circassiens ont tué un pauvre paysan et déshonoré sa femme. Les paysans ont apporté le mort à Roustchouk; le préfet de la ville les a chassés; ils se sont plaints au Gouverneur-Général, qui s'est borné d'envoyer quelques gendarmes pour faire une enquête sur place. Les gendarmes se rendent dans le dit village, rassemblent tous les Turcs et Circassiens, et leur tiennent le langage suivant: "Si vous rencontrez quelque Bulgare tuez-le, parceque tous les Bulgares sont des Cometadjés (voir le journal "Renaissance" de Braila). Non loin de Sistov les Circassiens ont tué et devalisé quelques voyageurs. L'autorité locale ne veut entendre aucune plainte sur ce sujet. La population est dans une angoisse perpétuelle et attend de moment en moment d'être massacrée par les Turcs, qui propagent ouvertement un massacre général des Chrétiens. Sous prétexte de secours pour l'armée, le Gouvernement Turc exige de ceux-ci de tels secours, qu'ils sont dans l'impossibilité de donner. On leur prend tout l'argent. De plus, les paysans doivent donner toutes les céréales qu'ils ont pour se nourrir pendant l'hiver. Outre à 20 maisons on exige un pain, des bœufs, et un chariot. Tout cela doit être accompagné d'une déclaration signée par eux, que tous ces secours sont volontaires. Le témeraire qui résisterait à ces ordres est poursuivi secrètement et tué comme insurgé. Le mois passé, Blacque Bey, directeur du Bureau de la Presse, et Ivantcho Effendi, fonctionnaire Turc, ont été envoyés en Bulgarie en mission spéciale; dans les circles officielles on dit qu'ils feront un troisième rapport sur le nombre exacte des victimes du dernier massacre. Mais les personnages autorisés confirment nos propres informations qu'ils se rendent en Bulgarie pour faire signer à la population Bulgare par force des adresses envers la Sublime Porte, qu'ils sont contents de leur position, etc. Avant même l'arrivée de ces personnages les autorités locales ont rassemblé déjà de telles adresses et particulièrement dans le Vilayet du Danube. Tout cela se fait pour tromper de nouveau l'opinion de l'Europe sur le véritable état de choses en Turquie.

A Etropole, ville dans le district de Sofia, les Turcs ont fait de nouvelles atrocités. Ses meilleurs jeunes gens ont été liés et torturés, particulièrement Michael Lavoff et la famille Peyoff père, frères, sœurs, parents, tous ont supporté des tortures inouïes. Leurs maisons ont été détruites sous prétexte de cacher des armes.

Il n'y a pas beaucoup de temps, les Turcs ont proclamé amnestie générale, et peu de jours après ils ont pendu 20 Bulgares au milieu de la ville de Sofia. A Roustchouk on a tiré trois fois la corde pour pendre un malheureux Bulgare et trois fois la corde s'est rompue. Malgré cela on ne lui fit pas grâce, et finalement il a été pendu. Les prisons sont pleins de prisonniers et la plupart sont exilés en Asie Mineure.

(Translation.)

THE unhappy condition of the Bulgarians has not changed, and every day we see the same bloody dramas repeated, and the same proceedings on the part of the Turks towards the Bulgarians.

We will give you some facts in support of our statement.

On the 15th August, in the village Yagabie, at one hour's distance from Roustchouk, the Circassians killed a poor peasant, and ravished his wife. The peasants carried the body to Roustchouk; the Prefect of the town drove them away; they complained to the Governor-General, who confined himself to sending some gendarmes to make an inquiry on the spot. The gendarmes went to the said village, assembled all the Turks and Circassians, and held the following language to them:—"If you meet a Bulgarian kill him, for all the Bulgarians are 'Cometadjés.'" (See the "Renaissance" paper of Braila). Not far from Sistov the Circassians killed and robbed some travellers. The local authorities will not hear any complaint on this subject. The people are in a

never-ceasing panic, and momentarily expect to be massacred by the Turks, who openly propose a general massacre of the Christians. Under the pretext of help for the army, the Turkish Government exacts from them assistance which it is impossible for them to give. They take all their money. Moreover, the peasants are forced to give all their corn which they look to support themselves with during the winter; in addition to which they demand from every twenty houses a loaf, some oxen, and a waggon. All this must be accompanied by a declaration signed by themselves that this assistance is voluntarily given. Anybody rash enough to resist these orders is secretly followed and killed as an insurgent. Last month Blacque Bey, Director of the Press Office, and Ivantcho Effendi, a Turkish functionary, were sent into Bulgaria on a special mission. They say in official circles that they are about to make a third report on the exact number of the victims of the last massacre. But well-informed persons confirm our own information that they are going to Bulgaria to force the Bulgarian people to sign addresses to the Sublime Porte, professing that they are content with their position, &c. Even before the arrival of these personages the local authorities had already got together such addresses, and especially in the Vilayet of the Danube. All this is done to deceive once more the opinion of Europe on the true state of things in Turkey.

At Etropole, a town in the district of Sofia, the Turks have committed fresh atrocities. Its foremost young men have been bound and tortured, especially Michael Lavoff, and the family Peyoff—father, brothers, sisters, and relations—all underwent unheard-of tortures. Their houses were destroyed on the pretext that arms were concealed there.

A short time since the Turks proclaimed a general amnesty, and a few days later they hung twenty Bulgarians in the middle of the town of Sofia. At Roustchouk a threefold attempt was made to hang a wretched Bulgarian, and three times the cord broke. Notwithstanding which they had no pity on him, and finally he was hung. The prisons are full of prisoners, and the greater part of them are under sentence of exile to Asia Minor.

Inclosure 3 in No. 570.

Consul Dalziel to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Varna, September 27,* 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report, in reply to your Excellency's despatch No. 1, that, so far as I know or have been able to ascertain, no outrages whatever have been perpetrated by Bashi-Bazouks in this district.

Many stories or rumours of outrages and atrocities in the vicinity have reached me, and I have done everything in my power to ascertain their truth, but in every case, when investigated on the spot they resolved themselves when they had any foundation at all into cases of ordinary brigandage such as have always occurred, and must exist in such thinly populated countries as this, and which are no worse, but, on the contrary, attended with less cruelty and violence than similar acts daily committed under Governments considered civilized, such as Spain and Italy.

I have also to report that his Excellency the Governor of this district has shown the utmost anxiety to repress brigandage, and has lately offered a reward of 25*l.* for the capture or head of each brigand belonging to a band of Sug, who appear to have committed most of the crimes complained of.

The difficulty of suppressing these acts is much increased by the indisposition of the peasantry, both Turks and Christians, to give any information regarding the hiding-places of the robbers.

I have not heard of the pillage or devastation of a single village in the Dobrudja, and in a journey I lately made, quite unattended, throughout that district, I found the country perfectly tranquil, and the Christian peasantry going about their avocations in the ordinary manner.

Though the place referred to is not in my district, I cannot forbear referring to a statement in the "Daily News" of the 11th instant, concerning the pillage of these villages in the Dobrudja near Tulchta, accompanied by acts of frightful atrocity, having every reason to believe there are no villages to be found near Tulchta, nor in the whole Dobrudja, as showing how, in the present excited state of public opinion, people can be got to accept unfounded rumours without investigation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 570.

Consul Sanderson to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Toultcha, September* 29, 1876.

TOULTCHA quite quiet, visited Preslan and adjacent villages, no disturbances, other villages mentioned not in Dobrudja, but in neighbourhood of Shumla. To visit them should go by steamer to Varna; please telegraph instructions here.

No. 571

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 2, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the extract of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Calvert, respecting the state of things in the Sandjak of Philippopoli, and the measures of relief adopted by the Government.

The part which I do not forward refers only to proceedings connected with the distribution of relief by the private committee formed here for that purpose.

I likewise inclose copies of two Reports from Mr. Baring. That from Tatar-Bazardjik shows that little or nothing has yet been done either to provide for the safety of the people or to punish those whose guilt is notorious.

I at once sent strong remonstrances to the Porte, which I repeated last night to Midhat Pasha.

His Highness promised that he would speak this morning to the Grand Vizier and the Minister of War about the necessity of sending troops and police and of disarming the Pomaks, the urgency of which measures he recognized.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 571.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Philippopoli, September* 27, 1876.

AS I had the honour to report to your Excellency in my telegram (despatch No. 13) of Thursday last, September 21, the Turkish Commission under Sadoullah Bey, before starting for Bazardjik, appointed two local Commissions to visit the burnt villages in the Caza of Philippopoli, eighteen in number, ascertain the exact number of houses to be rebuilt, and superintend their reconstruction. Besides these, a third Commission was at the same time instituted by Sadoullah Bey, to attend to the restitution of stolen live-stock. The sphere of action of these three Commissions is confined to the Caza of Philippopoli; for the Caza of Bazardjik, which, as your Excellency is aware, contains a far larger number of burnt villages, Sadoullah Bey intended to organize separate Commissions, regarding which Mr. Baring, who started yesterday for Bazardjik, will no doubt report in due time to your Excellency.

The Commissions in question consist of local functionaries and notables, and each is composed of a Mussulman president, a Christian and a Mussulman member, and a secretary,—four persons in all.

The sum which Sadoullah Bey brought with him for immediate wants is 5,000, not 3,000 Turkish pounds, as I understood at first.

The Turkish authorities here estimate the cost of rebuilding the eighteen burnt villages of the "caza" at a maximum of 30,000 Turkish pounds.

The necessity of increasing the military and police force of this sandjak has nto diminished since I had the honour of calling your Excellency's attention to the subject in my despatch of September 10. The inhabitants of the burnt villages stand so much in dread of the Pomaks that they dare not go to the forests to cut wood for new dwellings, whilst the Pomaks make continual raids on the shelterless people, and take what few things they possess.

Mr. Clarke, of Samakow, informs me that at Batak some Pomaks, passing through the other day, took, without paying for it, twenty okes of barley for their horses.

Mr. Clarke also tells me that a young man of Radilowo—one of the burnt villages—

was on September 9th murdered in a wood where he had gone to cut planks, and his horse carried off.

I abstain from citing any of the numerous cases of the same kind that are related to me by villagers, as it is possible that they are not all true. Allowing for exaggeration it is, nevertheless, positive that the situation of the Bulgarian peasantry is at present intolerable, and will continue to be so as long as the one available means of protection is wanting, viz., a large reinforcement of police.

Each village should have at least a couple of zaptiehs responsible for any outrages committed in their neighbourhood. Most of the zaptiehs now employed in the sandjak are utterly untrustworthy. They are natives of Bulgaria, are long in arrears of pay, and, consequently, are in some measure obliged to resort to extortion or open robbery.

In regard to the distress in the villages, I have just telegraphed to your Excellency the fact reported to me by Mr. Clarke, that a wintry temperature already prevails at Batak. It is superfluous for me to point out how urgent is the need of succour in the form of clothing and coverings.

Next to nothing has yet been done in the way of rebuilding at Batak, but the Turkish Commission has just visited the place and given the orders which it deemed requisite.

Mr. Clarke, who yesterday came here to consult with me as to his course of action, has begun to have a building erected at Batak which will serve as a hospital, typhus and dysentery being now very prevalent and fatal. He proposes to erect as soon as possible similar hospitals at Radilowo, Peroushtizza, and Clissoura.

Although no medical men are to be had he believes that much can be done for the sick by providing shelter, clean quarters, proper nourishment, and a few simple medicines.

Inclosure 2 in No. 571.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, September* 26, 1876.

I REGRET to have to report to your Excellency that, from all I can gather here, no visible improvement has taken place in the condition of the Bulgarian villagers.

But a very short time ago, in the neighbourhood of Yeni-Mahalle, the Turks forced a number of Bulgarians to thresh maize, ill-treating those who ventured to say that they had their own crops to look after.

This is one case, but I am assured the same thing is going on throughout the Province.

Saadoullah Bey's Commission left on Saturday for Tatar-Bazardjik (to which place I intend going this afternoon), and were to have visited Batak on Sunday.

They have appointed sub-Commissions here to see to the rebuilding of houses, and to the restoration of stolen cattle for this caza, and a sum of 5,000 Turkish pounds is said to have been placed at their disposal by Government.

As regards the houses, the plan to be followed is that skilled labour and nails should be sent by the Commision from here, that wood and other building materials should be given from Government forests, &c., and that the neighbours, Turkish as well as Christian, should undertake all transport.

I fear it is not too much to say that the greater part of this forced labour will fall on Bulgarians, who can ill afford to give it.

It is true that houses may not have been burnt, but still there is hardly a village in the Province which has not been more or less impoverished by plunder.

At Peroustitza I hear that the Building Commission is really beginning to do something; the poorest are to have their houses rebuilt gratis, whereas those who are not quite destitute are to repay, in time, the expenses incurred.

I regret to say that much sickness prevails in the ravaged districts, the effect, of course, of privations of every description; thus diarrhœa and dysentery are raging at Zindjirli, and typhus and intermittent fevers at Batak.

No troops have been sent here from Constantinople; the 3,000 men who left last week, and some of whom were said to be destined to garrison this town, went on to the seat of war. The consequence is that an uneasy feeling prevails among the Christians, which has been considerably increased by an inflammatory document, circulated about a fortnight ago among the Mussulman population, some account of which I will give your Excellency in another despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 3 in No. 571.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Tatar-Bazardjik, September* 27, 1876.

ON arriving here yesterday evening I found that Saadoullah Bey's commission had not yet returned from the Batak district; as, however, they are expected to-day, I think it right to await their arrival.

The Mutessarif of Philippopoli being ill I was unfortunatelv unable to see him before leaving, but the day before yesterday I saw the Cadi and asked him whether Achmed Aga, of Dospat, or any other leaders of Bashi-Bazouks had been arrested.

The Cadi was evidently unwilling to speak about this; he had recourse to prevarication, and said that as it was the Pasha's business to decide upon such matters he could give me no information.

Some say that Achmed Aga and Ali Pehlivan were arrested when Blacque Bey was here but immediately set at liberty again; others say that no arrests have been made at all.

One thing is quite clear, viz., that none of those who committed the atrocities are in prison now, and the natural supposition is that the authorities are restrained by one of two reasons from taking proper action in the matter. Either they are afraid that arrests would cause a Mussulman outbreak, or they fear the revelations the leaders of the Bashi-Bazouks could make respecting the instructions they received from different quarters as to how they should conduct themselves towards the villages they attacked.

If they dread a rising of the Turks I think their fears are by no means groundless. The vast majority of the Mussulman population look upon the perpetrators of the horrors not as criminals but as heroes, who for their praiseworthy efforts to extirpate a noxious race have deserved well of their country. This idea the Government, in the first instance, did much to encourage by dealing out with a liberal hand decorations and rewards to such miscreants as Achmed Aga.

Supposing, therefore, that the Commission resolves to effect arrests, the Mussulmans will naturally be astonished at this sudden change of policy on the part of their own Government, and will think, very rightly, that it is due to foreign pressure.

At present twenty-four hours residence in a place like this is sufficient to show one how bitter are the feelings of the Mussulmans against the Christians, and that the position of the latter is simply intolerable. Not a day passes without the Rayahs being insulted, threatened, and made to feel their inferiority.

Such being the state of things it is not difficult to foresee what would be the result if the authorities attempted to arrest any prominent Mussulmans without a sufficient force to insure their orders being respected.

If the Porte is really in earnest and means to see justice done in the present instance, it must send troops enough to make the Mussulmans thoroughly understand that resistance on their part would be useless. For this purpose about 3,000 men should be sent to Philippopoli, Tartar-Bazardjik, Peshtera, Otloukeui, Karlowo, and a few other places.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

P.S.—I have just seen Dr. Vlados, who has been with the Commission; they will be at Peshtera all to-morrow, and I therefore propose going to join them there in the morning.

W. B.

No. 572.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 2, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a further Report from Sir Arnold Kemball describing the manner in which the suspension of hostilities was severally kept by the contending armies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 572.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters, Camp before Alexinatz, September* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to subjoin four telegrams* (A B C and D) forwarded by me to your Excellency as dated respectively.

The Turks continue to observe with good faith the order they received to suspend hostilities pending the course of negotiations at Constantinople.

The Servians, on the contrary, daily throw shells on any considerable parties of men and horses which they may observe to be watering or foraging between the heights of the Turkish position and the line of the Turkish out-posts extending on the plains southward and eastward from the trestle bridge (where the extreme western bend of the river almost touches the base of these heights) for a distance of about three miles to a point south-west (about one mile) from the tête-de-pont. Within this line are situated the villages† occupied (and destroyed) by our force after the battle of Friday, the 1st instant, as also the wells and cultivation from which the troops on this side draw their supplies of water and fodder.

Prior to the "arrangement," which, for facility of explanation, I call "armistice" the ground beyond this line was frequently invaded by foragers, but I can myself certify that since that period the orders against transgressing the limits so defined have been strictly observed, Bashi-Bazouk stragglers having been themselves fired upon by the Turkish pickets.

In the rear the case is somewhat different. The advance brigade of Hafiz Pasha occupies, on the extreme left of the Turkish position, the north-eastern extremity of the same crest on which the Servian division after the attack of Monday (the 11th instant) permanently established itself.

The ravine which separates that division from the Turkish right-rear also intervenes between the brigade of Hafiz Pasha and the Turkish left centre. Here, where it widens and opens upon the valley of the Morava, it is in some degree exposed to the guns of the Servian division. To prevent their encroaching within effective range and molesting the communications within our lines, self-defence has required that "shot for shot" should be returned to the enemy's fire.

The Servian division in question covers the road to Krusewatz, and its efforts are constantly directed to secure and fortify its position.

The enemy is supposed to be daily receiving reinforcements, comprising a large proportion of Russian volunteers, and he is observed to be strengthening the lines of Alexinatz and Deligrad, but we can obtain no information of the force at his disposal or of its distribution. We are even ignorant of the names of the several officers in command.

Forage is failing, and with the lapse of the season a prolonged armistice, unless peace be eventually secured, must operate most prejudicially for the cause of the Turks.

I inclose in original and translation the deposition of the prisoner of war who was captured on Friday night (22nd).

On the last two nights, Saturday and Sunday, the enemy again opened musketry fire from their position in the plain, in the direction of the trestle bridge, but failing to elicit a response, ceased the attempt to bring on a conflict with the Turks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. R. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 572.

Examination of Milasa Radotonich, taken prisoner September $\frac{10}{22}$, 1876.

D. QUEL est votre nom?—*R.* Milasa Radotonich.

D. De quelle pays êtes vous?—*R.* Du village de Rogobavach, du district de Krajugevach.

D. De quelle classe de soldats êtes vous?—*R.* Je suis de la classe séparée de soldats-travailleurs (Droujo classe). Quand on m'a amené à Alexinatz c'est alors qu'on m'a donné le bonnet de soldat et l'arme.

* Substance communicated to Foreign Office by telegraph.

† A part of one of the villages remained standing, and when I visited it a day or two ago, the houses and the furniture and the agricultural implements they contained had not been injured.

D. Dans le conflit d'hier soir de quel bataillon étiez-vous ?—*R.* Dans le bataillon de Sava Popovitch, et dans la compagnie de Petrani ; ce bataillon appartient à la brigade de Krajugevatz, mais je ne sais pas le numéro de bataillon.

D. Est-ce à Krajugevatz ou à Alexinatz que vous êtes entré dans ce bataillon ?—*R.* A Krajugevatz.

D. Combien de mois y a-t-il que ce bataillon est arrivé à Alexinatz ?—*R.* Environ trois mois.

D. Quel est le nom de votre caporal ?—*R.* Sava ; et je suis le premier soldat de son escouade.

D. Combien de bataillons de l'autre côté du pont (où a eu lieu le conflit).—*R.* Je ne sais pas ; nous étions près du pont à côté d'Alexinatz. Le soir nous sommes venus pour relever ceux qui se trouvaient au pont.

D. Le bataillon que vous avez relevé, où est-il allé ?—*R.* Je ne sais pas où il est allé.

D. Combien y a-t-il de troupes au village au delà du pont ?—*R.* Je ne sais pas. Nous étions sur les hauteurs près d'Alexinatz, occupé à faire des fortifications.

D. Où est Chernaieff ?—*R.* Je ne sais pas ; s'il était de Krajugevatz, je l'aurais su.

D. Y a-t-il beaucoup d'officiers Russes ?—*R.* Quant à mon bataillon il y en a six ; pour les autres je n'en sais rien.

D. Comment se fait-il que vous êtes passé hier soir de ce côté-ci, et de quel côté sont partis les coups de fusil ?—*R.* Nous avons prié les Russes de ne pas nous faire tirer, nos soldats étaient venus prendre de l'eau, les Russes ont tiré, et nous ont obligés de tirer ; et les officiers Russes disent qu'ils n'avaient pas l'ordre de vous laisser prendre de l'eau, et que nous devions absolument faire feu, et ils nous y excitent toujours. Dans la journée même notre chef-de-bataillon nous avait donné l'ordre de ne pas tirer, et le plus souvent dans la journée les officiers Russes tirent leurs revolvers sur vos soldats qui viennent prendre de l'eau, et puis ils retournent en riant.

D. Y a-t-il de troupes dans la forêt au delà du pont ?—*R.* Je ne sais pas, parceque notre occupation était de travailler aux fortifications ; mais j'ai vu qu'à Deligrad il y a beaucoup de troupes.

D. Pour quelle raison faites-vous ces grands feux ?—*R.* Une fois nous avons fait des feux pour la naissance du fils du Prince, et une fois encore parceque disait-on le Prince était devenu Roi.

D. A quelle âge devenez-vous soldat ?—*R.* Maintenant pour cette guerre ils nous ont pris sous les armes depuis dix-huit jusqu'à soixante-dix ans.

D. Y a-t-il des hôpitaux à Alexinatz ?—*R.* Quand nous travaillons à faire les routes toutes les maisons étaient hôpitaux, et à Deligrad il y a aussi des barraques pour hôpitaux. Il y a beacoup de malades. Les malades sont envoyés à Parachin, Deligrad, Semindria, et Kuchevatz.

D. Quel est l'âge de soldat dans chaque classe ?—*R.* La première classe renferme les hommes de vingt à trente ans, qui sont destinés au combat. Les soldats-travailleurs sont des catégories dépassant la première classe de dix-huit à soixante.

D. Etes-vous payé par le Gouvernement ?—*R.* Pas un sou nous ne recevons du Gouvernement.

D. Les inhabitants d'Alexinatz où sont-ils ?—*R.* Ils se trouvent du côté du Parachin et Gagodina, et dans les montagnes boisées derrière Belgrade, où ils se sont fait des huttes.

D. Pour combien de jours vous a-t-on donné l'ordre de ne pas tirer ?—*R.* Il viendra un officier de Deligrad (disent-on), et jusqu'à son arrivée il ne faudrait pas tirer. Après son arrivée on agirait selon les ordres.

D. Qui est cet officier supérieur ?—*R.* Je ne sais pas.

D. Nous entendons que les officiers Russes tirent sur ceux de vous qui ne sont pas en avant au combat, est-ce vrai ?—*R.* Mois aussi je l'ai entendu, mais ne m'étant jamais trouvé au combat, je ne l'ai pas vu.

D. Vous avez dit que dans votre bataillon il y plusieurs officiers Russes, comment font-ils leur commandement ?—*R.* Un de ces officiers est supérieur à notre chef-de-bataillon, les autres se mettent en arrière des compagnies ; le Commandant nous avons prié, comme il y a maintenant la paix, de ne plus tirer. Les Russes nous disent qu'il ne faut pas laisser prendre de l'eau, et si vous ne tirez pas sur ceux qui viennent en prendre, nous tireront sur vous. L'ordre donné au commencement était que dans le cas où les Turcs passeraient le Morava nous devions tirer, mais de ne pas tirer s'ils viennent prendre de l'eau et causer avec nous ; mais les officiers Russes, agissant contre ces ordres, nous ont forcés à tirer aussi sur ceux qui vennaient prendre de l'eau.

D. Vous vous trouvez à votre aise ici, pourquoi ne passez-vous pas de notre côté ?—

R. Nos officiers nous disent que si nous passons du côté des Turcs ils nous rôtiraient à la broche, mais je vois maintenant que vous ne faites rien de mal.

D. Comment avez-vous été fait prisonnier?—*R.* Le soir j'étais endormi dans les retranchements qui sont loin en arrière du pont lorsque les nôtres ont commencé de faire feu, et d'après les ordres des officiers Russes, mon van-bashi nous a ordonné de nous lever et d'avancer en tirant. Nous sommes avancés en ligne de tirailleurs jusqu'à ce que le feu ralentit et l'ordre fut donné de se rassembler, alors ne sachant pas où j'étais en avançant je me suis égaré, et arrivant sur le pont je fus fait prisonnier par les Turcs en croyant que le pont était à nous.

(Translation.)

Q. WHAT is your name?—*A.* Milasa Radotonich.

Q. From what part of the country do you come?—*A.* From the village of Rogobavach, in the district of Krajugevach.

Q. To what class of soldiers do you belong?—*A.* I belong to the separate class of soldier-labourers (Droujo class). It was when I was taken to Alexinatz that my soldier's cap and weapon were given to me.

Q. In last night's battle in what battalion were you?—*A.* In the battalion of Sava Popovitch, and in the company of Petrani. This battalion belongs to the brigade of Krajugevatz; but I do not know the number of the battalion.

Q. Did you enter this battalion at Krajugevatz or at Alexinatz?—*A.* At Krajugevatz.

Q. How many months ago did this battalion arrive at Alexinatz?—*A.* About three months.

Q. What is your corporal's name?—*A.* Sava; and I am the first soldier in his squad.

Q. How many battalions are there on the other side of the bridge (where the fight took place)?—*A.* I do not know; we were near the bridge, on the Alexinatz side. In the evening we came to relieve those who were stationed at the bridge.

Q. Where did the battalion which you relieved go?—*A.* I do not know where it went.

Q. How many troops are there in the village beyond the bridge?—*A.* I don't know. We were on the heights above Alexinatz, occupied in constructing fortifications.

Q. Where is Chernaieff?—*A.* I don't know. If he had come from Krajugevatz, I should have known it.

Q. Are there many Russian officers?—*A.* As to my battalion, there are six; but as to the others, I know nothing.

Q. How is it that you passed last night to this side, and on which side was the firing?—*A.* We begged the Russians not to make us fire; our soldiers had come to take water. The Russians fired, and forced us to fire; and the Russian officers say they had no order to let you take water, and we must absolutely fire; and they are always exciting us to do so. That same day the chief of our battalion had given us orders not to fire, and constantly during the day the Russian officers fired their revolvers on your soldiers who came to take water, and then came back laughing.

Q. Are there any troops in the forest beyond the bridge?—*A.* I don't know; because our occupation was working at the fortifications; but I saw that at Deligrad there were a number of troops.

Q. For what reason did you make those large fires?—*A.* Once we made fires on account of the birth of the Prince's son, and another time because it was said the Prinee had become King.

Q. At what age are you liable to become a soldier?—*A.* At present for this war they make us carry arms from the age of eighteen to that of sixty.

Q. Are there any hospitals at Alexinatz?—*A.* When we were working at making the roads all the houses were hospitals, and at Deligrad there were also barracks for hospitals. There are many sick. The sick are sent to Parachin, Deligrad, Semindria, and Kruchevatz.

Q. What is the age of the soldier in each class?—*A.* The first class includes men from twenty to thirty years of age, who constitute the fighting force. The soldier-labourers are those classes outside the first class from eighteen to sixty.

Q. Are you paid by the Government?—*A.* We do not receive a penny from the Government.

Q. Where are the inhabitants of Alexinatz?—*A.* They are in the direction of Parachin and Gagodina, and in the wooded mountains behind Belgrade, where they have made themselves huts.

Q. For how many days was the order given you not to fire?—*A.* An officer will come from Deligrad (we were told), and till his arrival we were not to fire. After his arrival we should act according to orders.

Q. Who is this superior officer?—*A.* I don't know.

Q. We hear that the Russian officers fire on those of you who are not in the front of the battle, is that true?—*A.* I also have heard it, but as I have never been in battle I have never seen it take place.

Q. You said that in your batallion there are several Russian officers, how do they discharge their duties?—*A.* One of these officers is of superior rank to our major, the others are posted in the rear of companies; our commander had requested us, as there is peace at present, not to fire. The Russians tell us that we must not allow water to be drawn, and if we do not fire on those who came to draw it, they would fire on us. The order given in the first instance was that in case the Turks crossed the Morava we were to fire, but we were not to fire if they came to draw water and to talk with us; but the Russian officers, acting against these orders, forced us to fire also on those who came to draw water.

Q. You are well treated here, why do you not come over to our side?—*A.* Our officers tell us that if we go over to the Turks they would roast us on spits, but now I see that you do not harm us.

Q. How were you taken prisoner?—*A.* In the evening I had gone to sleep in the entrenchments, which are far in rear of the bridge, when our men began to fire, and in obedience to the orders of the Russian officers, my van-bashi ordered us to get up and advance firing. We advanced in skirmishing order till the fire slackened and the order was given to rally, and then, not knowing where I was, as I advanced I lost my way, and coming to the bridge I was made prisoner by the Turks, thinking that the bridge was ours.

No. 573.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 1, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived at Cettigné yesterday evening, and was received at the hotel by one of the Prince's aides-de-camp.

His Highness has been absent for four days; and has kept his exact whereabouts a secret; although he is known to have gone to the Albanian frontier. He is expected to return to-night; but I hardly count upon having the honour of an audience in time to report by the early post to-morrow.

I was received this afternoon by the Princess. Her Highness expressed great gratification at my arrival; and was good enough to say that she was convinced that Prince Nicholas would be exceedingly pleased to find that Her Majesty's Government had authorized me to visit Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 574.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 9, 1876, 11 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday to Sir A. Buchanan, expressing the hope that Austria would give the Porte no encouragement to persist in an attitude of obdurate refusal, it may be right for me to inform your Lordship that the Austrian Ambassador here has exerted himself to the utmost in urging the Porte to accept conditions proposed by your Lordship, and to consent to an armistice.

No. 575.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1876.

THE German Ambassador asked me this afternoon what action Her Majesty's Government were inclined to take upon the complaint addressed by the Greek Government to the European Powers as to the formation of fresh Circassian colonies in the Greek provinces of Turkey.

I told Count Münster in general terms that, without entering into the question how far the Greek Government were entitled to remonstrate on the subject, except in cases where the tranquillity of their own frontier was likely to be affected, we were disposed to consider that the establishment of such colonies in the European provinces of Turkey was an ill-advised and impolitic measure, and that we were ready to advise the Porte in that sense. Sir Henry Elliot had, indeed, been already instructed to mention the matter to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 576.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1876.

I SHOULD wish your Excellency to communicate to Herr von Bülow the telegraphic instructions which I have sent to Sir Henry Elliot on the 5th instant, directing him to inform the Turkish Government that he was instructed to leave Constantinople if they should persist in refusing their consent to an armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 577.

M. Contostavlos to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, October* 10.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* $\frac{18}{30}$ *Septembre*, 1876.

L'IDEE d'ériger la Bulgarie, la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine en Principautés autonomes, sous la suzeraineté de la Turquie, paraît acquérir de jour en jour plus de consistance dans les cercles diplomatiques.

Avant qu'une pareille décision soit prise et exécutée par la diplomatie Européenne, nous croyons devoir élever notre voix pour éclairer les Gouvernements de l'Europe sur les suites probables. Nous sommes d'autant plus obligé de le faire, que cet acte d'une haute importance, destiné à modifier l'état des choses en Orient, ne manquera pas d'avoir pour la Grèce des résultats immédiats ; car toute injustice commise à l'égard des Grecs de la Turquie ne pourrait qu'avoir son contre-coup parmi leurs frères de la Grèce libre, et créer au Gouvernement lui-même des embarras d'une portée facile à concevoir. En effet il est hors de doute que ces faveurs exceptionnelles accordées aux races Slaves amèneront, dans un avenir plus ou moins prochain, le soulèvement des races Grecques de l'Empire Ottomane, et il est démontré par l'histoire que toutes les fois que des troubles ont éclaté dans les provinces Grecques de la Turquie, la Grèce a été la première à en souffrir, à cause des dépenses extraordinaires auxquelles elle était entraînée pour subvenir à l'entretien des personnes qui venaient chercher un asile sur son territoire, pour réprimer le brigandage, et faire face à d'autres besoins qui lui étaient impérieusement commandés par la situation.

Indépendamment de ces raisons, nous aimons à espérer que les Grandes Puissances, qui en leur qualité de Puissances Chrétiennes ont de tout temps témoigné leur intérêt en faveur des populations non-Musulmanes de la Turquie, voudront bien nous permettre de nous intéresser aussi au même titre au sort de nos frères d'Orient. L'identité de religion, les liens de langue et d'origine, et surtout les obligations morales, que la Grèce a dans ces derniers temps contractées envers les populations Grecques de l'Empire Ottomane, en leur imposant la tranquillité que l'Europe exigeait, nous font même de cette sollicitude un

devoir sacré, qui, nous aimons à l'espérer, sera apprécié par les Puissances à sa juste valeur.

Vous n'ignorez pas, Monsieur, que le Gouvernement Hellénique, obéissant à la voix des Puissances Européennes qui voulaient éviter, à tout prix, une conflagration générale en Orient, n'a pas laissé les races Grecques de la Turquie profiter des circonstances favorables, que l'insurrection des Slaves du Sud offrait à l'accomplissement de leurs aspirations nationales.

Bien loin de raviver ces aspirations et de tisonner le feu qui couve depuis longtemps en Candie et dans les autres provinces Grecques de la Turquie, le Gouvernement Hellénique s'est imposé au contraire la triste et ingrate tâche de mettre un frein à l'ardeur insurrectionnelle de nos frères en religion et en nationalité. Ainsi, non seulement nous nous sommes abstenus d'aggraver la situation, en provoquant des mouvements qui, par la force des faits accomplis, auraient créé aux Grecs de la Turquie, et notamment aux habitants des îles, d'Epire, de Thessalie et de Macédoine, au moins les mêmes droits à l'attention de l'Europe que l'insurrection des Slaves du Sud a créé à la Bulgarie et aux notres provinces révoltées de l'Empire Ottomane, mais tout au contraire nous avons contribué, par notre attitude d'abstention et notre action même sur nos frères en Turquie, à isoler le foyer de l'insurrection et à faciliter l'œuvre de la pacification que l'Europe désirait si vivement.

En agissant ainsi la Grèce libre s'attirait l'approbation des Grandes Puissances et faisait avec raison espérer aux provinces Grecques de l'Empire Ottomane que la diplomatie Européenne ne manquerait pas, au moment critique et décisif, d'apprécier cette conduite à sa juste valeur et de tenir compte aux populations Grecques de la contenance gardée par eux pendant l'insurrection des Slaves du Sud.

Or l'heure propice paraît enfin près de sonner, et la diplomatie Européenne, lasse d'un état de choses gros de danger, et soucieuse de l'avenir, se décide d'intervenir entre la Sublime Porte et ses vassaux révoltés, pour rétablir la paix.

Malheureusement elle paraît croire qu'elle aura assez fait pour asseoir ce nouvel édifice sur de bases solides et pour assurer à l'avenir la tranquillité de l'Orient, si elle concentre tout son action à améliorer le sort des populations Slaves de la Turquie, qui ont protesté contre l'autorité de la Porte, les armes à la main. Quant aux autres races qui se sont tenus tranquilles, non parcequ'elles n'avaient pas souffert, mais seulement parcequ'on leur avait imposé le silence, la diplomatie Européenne paraît les avoir totalement oubliées.

Elle fait même semblant de les ignorer, et dans toutes les combinaisons, dont la diplomatie a eu à s'occuper ces derniers jours, il n'est nullement question d'une amélioration du sort des populations Grecques de la Turquie.

Vous connaissez, Monsieur, depuis longtemps la pensée du Gouvernement Royal sur une pareille éventualité. Je n'ai pas manqué de vous en faire part, dès le commencement même de la guerre actuelle en Orient, et dès les premières exhortations à la paix, que les Grandes Puissances nous ont itérativement adressées.

J'ai bien des fois attiré votre attention sur cette question de haute et vitale importance pour la Grèce, et je vous ai prié de bien vouloir communiquer mes idées au Gouvernement Britannique en y ajoutant tous les développements que comportait la question. Aussi n'aurai-je peut-être pas besoin d'y revenir, si l'urgence des circonstances ne m'en faisait un devoir. Le Gouvernement Hellénique est responsable vis-à-vis des Grecs de la Turquie de la prolongation de leurs souffrances. Il sent tout le poids de la responsabilité qu'il a assumée et se croit en devoir de déclarer en toute franchise aux Cabinets Européens, qu'une mesure quelconque, tendant à améliorer le sort d'une partie des populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie, pour en laisser les autres sous le poids de leur situation actuelle, ne serait ni juste ni sage. Elle ne serait pas juste parceque les populations Grecques ont aussi des droits à l'attention de la diplomatie Européenne, tant pour avoir obiér àsa voix que pour avoir enduré au moins les mêmes maux que les Slaves insurgés. Si elles n'ont pas saisi les armes pour obtenir leur émancipation, ce n'est pas le courage qui leur a fait défaut, mais bien la volonté. On n'a qu'à consulter l'histoire moderne de la race Grecque pour voir combien de fois le peuple Grec s'est lévé pour secouer le joug Ottoman, et combien de fois il a versé son sang et subi toutes les atrocités d'une guerre d'extermination pour reconquérir son indépendance politique. La lutte de 1821, qui a dévasté pendant huit ans le sol de la Grèce, est encore récente, et la destruction de Chio, les carnages d'Haïvali et de Psara, le pillage et la dévastation de toute la patrie de la Grèce continentale, qui fut de nouveau replacée sous le joug Ottoman, sont encore vivants dans toutes les mémoires. Le mouvement de 1854, étouffé par la diplomatie Européenne, et qui a amené l'occupation même de notre capitale, date presque d'hier. Les insurrections réitérées de l'Ile de Crète, qui ont encore dernièrement, il y a dix ans à peine, ensanglanté ses montagnes, sont autant de pages éloquentes, qui peuvent attester,

non seulement l'amour du peuple Grec pour l'indépendance, mais aussi les sacrifices qu'il a subis en la révendiquant.

La mesure diplomatique dont il s'agit ne pourrait non plus remédier à la situation; car, loin de tranquilliser l'Orient et de consolider la paix à l'avenir, elle ne manquerait pas de prêcher par des faits cette fois aux populations Grecques de l'Empire Ottomane, cette maxime si contraire aux vues de l'Europe, à savoir: que les sympathies de la diplomatie à leurs maux et le changement de leurs destinées ne pourraient être obtenu que par des révolutions. Les exhortations des Cabinets Européens ne sauraient plus les calmer ni les contenir. L'Administration Ottomane est toujours là pour les forcer à tout moment à recourir aux armes, et le Gouvernement Hellénique n'aurait plus la force de leur imposer une tranquillité qui aurait pour résultat infaillible de leur enléver leurs plus chères espérances.

Voilà, Monsieur, la perspective rien moins que rassurante pour la paix, qui ne manquerait pas de naître des mesures diplomatiques qui font aujourd'hui l'objet des préoccupations des Cabinets Européens.

Le Gouvernement du Roi croit devoir faire part de ces craintes aux Grandes Puissances, autant pour accomplir un devoir sacré, imposé par sa position exceptionnelle, vis-à-vis des populations Helléniques de la Turquie, que pour sauvegarder sa responsabilité à l'avenir.

En vous priant de bien vouloir entretenir de l'objet de ma présente M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Grande Bretagne, et de lui communiquer, dans la mesure que vous jugerez nécessaire, les idées que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous exposer, je vous prie, &c.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Athens, September* $\frac{18}{30}$, 1876.

THE idea of forming Bulgaria, Bosnia, and the Herzegovina into autonomous Principalities, under the suzerainty of Turkey, seems to acquire more coherence in diplomatic circles every day.

Before such a decision is come to and put into execution by European diplomacy, we feel bound to raise our voice to enlighten the Governments of Europe as to its probable consequences. We are the more compelled to do this, because this act of high importance, destined to change the state of things in the East, will not fail to have immediate consequences for Greece; for every act of injustice committed against the Greeks in Turkey, cannot fail to react on their brothers in free Greece, and to create for the Government itself difficulties of a nature easy to conceive. In fact, it is beyond doubt that exceptional favours granted to the Slavonic races will bring about in a future more or less immediate, the revolt of the Greek races of the Ottoman Empire, and history proves that every time that troubles have broken out in the Greek provinces of Turkey, Greece has been the first to suffer, on account of the extraordinary expenses into which she has been led in order to provide for the maintenance of those persons who sought a refuge on her territory, to put down brigandage, and to meet other needs which the position imperiously demanded of her.

Independently of these reasons, we hope that the Great Powers, who as Christian Powers have at all times shown their interest on behalf of the non-Mussulman inhabitants of Turkey, will permit us also to take an interest on the same ground in the lot of our brothers in the East. The identity of religion, the ties of language, of origin, and, above all, the moral obligations which Greece has latterly contracted towards the Greek inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire, by imposing on them the tranquillity which Europe demanded, even convert this anxiety into a sacred duty which, we hope, will be appreciated at its just value by the Powers.

You are aware, Sir, that the Hellenic Government, in obedience to the voice of the European Powers who wished to prevent, at any price, a general conflagration in the East, has not allowed the Greek races of Turkey to profit by the favourable circumstances which the revolt of the Southern Slavs offered for the accomplishment of their national aspirations.

Far from reviving these aspirations and from fanning the flame which has long smouldered in Crete, and in the other Greek provinces of Turkey, the Hellenic Government has set itself the sorry and ungrateful task of curbing the insurrectionary ardour of our brothers by religion and by race. Thus, not only have we abstained from aggravating the situation, by provoking risings which, with the strength of accomplished facts, would have given the Greeks in Turkey, and especially the inhabitants of the Islands, of Epirus, of Thessaly, and Macedonia, at least equal rights to the attention of Europe to those which the insurrection of the Southern Slavs has given to Bulgaria and to the other revolted provinces of the Ottoman Empire, but, on the contrary, we

have contributed by our attitude of abstention, and even by our influence on our brothers in Turkey, to isolate the seat of the insurrection, and to facilitate the work of pacification which Europe so keenly desires.

By thus acting free Greece has obtained the approval of the Great Powers and caused the Greek provinces of the Ottoman Empire to hope with reason that European diplomacy would not fail, at the critical and decisive moment, to appreciate this conduct at its just value, and to give the Greek populations credit for the self-control maintained by them during the revolt of the Southern Slavs.

Now the propicious hour seems at length about to strike, and European diplomacy, weary of a state of things full of danger, and anxious for the future, is resolved to intervene between the Sublime Porte and its revolted vassals in order to re-establish peace.

Unfortunately Europe appears to think that it will have done enough towards placing this new edifice on solid bases and towards securing the peace of the East for the future, if it concentrates all its influence upon the amelioration of the condition of the Slavs in Turkey, who have protested against the authority of the Porte with arms in their hands. As to the other races who have remained quiet, not because they had not suffered, but only because silence had been imposed on them, European diplomacy appears entirely to have forgotten them.

It even appears to ignore them, and in all the combinations with which diplomacy has lately had to occupy itself, mention has never been made of an amelioration of the condition of the Greek inhabitants of Turkey.

You have long known, Sir, the views of the King's Government respecting such an eventuality. I have not failed to communicate them to you, since the very beginning of the present war in the East, and since the first exhortations to preserve peace, which the Great Powers have repeatedly addressed to us.

I have many times drawn your attention to this question of high and vital importance for Greece, and I have requested you to be so good as to communicate my views to the Britannic Government, with the addition of all the developments required by the question. Therefore, I should not be obliged to return to it, if the urgency of the circumstances did not make it my duty. The Hellenic Government is responsible to the Greeks in Turkey for the prolongation of their sufferings. It feels all the weight of the responsibility it has assumed, and thinks itself bound to declare frankly to the Cabinets of Europe that any measure tending to ameliorate the lot of one portion of the Christian population of Turkey, which left the rest under the weight of their present situation, would be neither just nor wise. It would not be just because the Greek population have also their rights to the attention of European diplomacy, in that they have listened to European advice and have endured at least the same evils as the Slav insurgents. If they have not taken up arms to obtain their emancipation, it is not courage which failed them, but the will to do so.

One need only consult the modern history of the Greek race to see how many times the Greek people have risen to throw off the Ottoman yoke, and how many times it has shed its blood and endured all the horrors of a war of extermination in order to reconquer its political independence. The struggle of 1821, which, for eight years, laid waste the soil of Greece, is still recent, and the destruction of Chio, the slaughter at Haïvali and Psara, the pillage and devastation of the whole country of continental Greece, which was once more placed under the Ottoman yoke, are still living in the memories of all. The movement of 1854, stifled by European diplomacy, and which even brought about the occupation of our capital, dates almost from yesterday. The repeated insurrections in the island of Crete, which, quite lately, scarcely ten years ago, deluged its mountains in blood, are so many eloquent pages, which attest not only the love of the Greek people for its independence, but also the sacrifices which it has faced in claiming it.

Nor would the diplomatic step in question improve the situation; for, far from pacifying the East and consolidating peace for the future, it would not fail to teach, this time by deeds, to the Greek population of the Ottoman Empire this maxim so contrary to the views of Europe, namely, that the sympathy of diplomacy for their misfortunes and for a change in their destiny can only be obtained by revolutions. The exhortations of European Cabinets would no longer be able to calm or to restrain them. The Ottoman Administration is always there to force them at any moment to have recourse to arms, and the Hellenic Government would no longer have the power to impose on them a tranquillity, which would have for inevitable result the destruction of their most cherished hopes.

This, Sir, is the prospect, anything but reassuring, for peace, which will not fail to follow from the diplomatic measures which are at present being discussed by the Cabinets of Europe.

The King's Government feel bound to communicate these fears to the Great Powers, as much to fulfil a sacred duty, imposed upon it by its exceptional position towards the Hellenic population of Turkey, as to free itself from responsibility in the future.

Requesting you to be so good as to set the purport of this despatch before the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Great Britain, and to communicate to him, as far as you may think fit, the views which I have had the honour to state to you, I have &c.

No. 578.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1876.

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires called upon me by appointment this afternoon, and communicated to me the despatch of which I inclose a copy,* relative to the evil effects which are likely to ensue if, in the action of the Powers to obtain improved administration for Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, no account is taken of the claim of the Greek Provinces of Turkey to similar benefits.

With regard to the first paragraph of this despatch, in which it is stated that the idea of erecting the three above-named provinces into autonomous Principalities under the suzerainty of the Porte is daily acquiring consistency in diplomatic circles, I told M. Gennadius that as far as I was aware no such project had been suggested or discussed among the six Powers.

As to the claim of the other European Provinces of Turkey to participate in such administrative reforms as might be susceptible of general application, I said there seemed to be many arguments in favour of such a course, and from what I had recently heard from Constantinople the Porte seemed disposed to take the same view.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 579.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador told me this afternoon, but as his personal opinion merely, that he thought it not unlikely that his Government would insist on the exclusion of any Turkish representative from the Conference now proposed. In taking this view his Government would probably be influenced by the following considerations:—

1. It would be undesirable that the Representative of the Porte should be witness to any differences that may exist between the Powers, until these have been settled and the result of the agreement can be submitted to the Porte as a proposal from the united Powers.

2. If it should be necessary for the Conference to obtain evidence or information from delegates or others competent to speak as to the state of the disturbed Provinces and the requirements of the population, these would not be able to speak freely in the presence of the representative of their own Government.

3. If the Porte is represented in a Conference at Constantinople, the Turkish Plenipotentiary will, by diplomatic rule, be entitled to preside over the meeting, which would be inconvenient, and would place the other Plenipotentiaries in a false position. This would be an objection to the Conference being held at Constantinople, which would otherwise seem to be the most convenient place of meeting.

Count Schouvaloff suggested as one method of avoiding these difficulties, that the first sittings of the Conference should be held by the representatives of the six Powers merely, and that the Turkish Government should be invited to send a representative to take part in the discussion as soon as a definitive plan had been agreed upon, at all events in its broader features, which could be submitted to the consideration of the Porte.

His Excellency having explained that the above suggestion was merely the expression of his personal opinion, and that he had not the authority of his Government in making it, I reserved my opinion, merely saying that his Excellency's views should have the fullest consideration on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* See No. 577.

No. 580.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, September* 29, 1876.

SINCE the departure of the Servians from their fortifications along the banks of the Drina, the Turks have remained entirely on the defensive. The Turkish force at Belina was considered too weak to make a forward movement, and I hear that Vely Pasha will shortly return here.

As to what is passing at Alexinatz and elsewhere in Servia there is no kind of information here beyond mere rumour.

I hear that Moukhtar Pasha is still at Grahova in rather an awkward position, as he has great difficulty in keeping open his communications with Trebigné.

The authorities here are in great want of money to provide for the maintenance of the troops, and it is of the greatest importance that the Porte should speedily make good its promises of forwarding the necessary funds. The usual army contractors refuse to furnish anything more until they are paid what is owing to them. The troops cannot be left unprovided for without the risk of serious consequences.

The Sultan's Firman, already published in the newspapers, was read here yesterday. People seem to regard these firmans as mere formalities, without any real signification, and they do not seem to excite the smallest interest.

Peace is earnestly desired by all classes of the population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 581.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, September* 30, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, concerning the position of Moukhtar Pasha in Montenegro, and stating that information of an armistice having been concluded between the Porte and Montenegro has been received at Mostar.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 581.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Sir, *Mostar, September* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Moukhtar Pasha has, as yet, made no attempt at any further advance into Montenegro. He still occupies the same position at Zaslop as on the first day of his entry into Grahova, and has entrenched there his whole force of thirty battalions. The Montenegrins are entrenched opposite him, but neither army ventures to attack the other. I imagine that Moukhtar Pasha is at last convinced of the impossibility of penetrating into Montenegro by way of Grahova, and his adversaries are probably only awaiting his retreat to take him at a disadvantage. There have been very heavy rains latterly in the Herzegovina and Moukhtar's troops, the majority of which are not even under canvass, are said to have suffered severely, and there is no doubt that they will be obliged before long to withdraw to Trebigné.

Information has been received here unofficially that a "tacit armistice" of ten days has been concluded between Montenegro and the Porte, and peace is already talked of as a certain event. The authorities, civil as well as military, profess displeasure, probably more feigned than real, at the notion of any arrangement being come to with Montenegro before she has been made to feel the power of the Porte, but I think that the native Mussulmans are rejoiced at the prospect of seeing this dilatory war brought to an end, by whatever means.

Moukhtar Pasha is said to have been named President of the "Dari-Shoura," or

Council of War, but has orders to remain in the Herzegovina until the conclusion of the war. This is considered here as a further indication of approaching peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

No. 582.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, September* 30, 1876.

AS I believe that the Turkish Government promised that the sentences awarded in the affair of the murder of the French and German Consuls at Salonica should be published throughout the Empire, I think it my duty to inform your Lordship that up to the present moment no allusion to them has been made in the official newspaper here, or, as far as I am aware, in any other manner.

Mr. Freeman reports to me that the same silence on this subject has been observed at Mostar, and on the French Vice-Consul there lately asking the Governor-General whether he had any intention of publishing the sentences passed on the various criminals now that the matter was ended, his Excellency replied that it was not his intention to do so, having received no such instructions from the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 583.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1876.

I INFORMED your Excellency in my despatch of the 27th ultimo that I had thought it right to call the attention of the Russian Ambassador to the inconvenience and danger attendant upon the extraordinary influx of Russian volunteers into Servia. The extent to which this influx has taken place is well known to your Excellency, and is, indeed, a matter of notoriety; for there has been little or no attempt at concealment.

The inclosed copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Bucharest will show the embarrassment which has been caused to the Roumanian Government by the passage through their territory of a band of 300 Russian volunteers in such a manner as almost to amount to a military demonstration, and the steps which they have been compelled to take to avoid the recurrence of an incident which might give legitimate ground of remonstrance to the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government consider that the Government of Prince Charles have some right to complain that their conscientious efforts to remain neutral in the present struggle, and not to give cause for the addition of fresh complications to those already existing, should be thwarted by the acts of private individuals, the subjects of a neighbouring and neutral State. If the transit of this body of volunteers through Roumanian territory approached so nearly to the appearance of a military expedition, its departure from the Russian frontier could scarcely bear a different signification.

The Government of Great Britain would be the last to suggest the repression of sympathy with a popular cause so long as it does not exceed the limits prescribed by international law. They have themselves done what lay in their power to assist the efforts made from England to relieve the sufferings of the wounded in the present contest. But the presence of Russian officers and soldiers in the Servian army has assumed proportions which fall little short of national assistance. It is stated that upwards of 15,000 Russian subjects have now joined the Servian cause, and it has even been reported that the officers who have resigned their commissions in the Russian army for this purpose have received promises of reinstatement in their former rank on their return to Russia.

If the Emperor of Russia is as sincerely desirous of a speedy and peaceful termination of the present disastrous struggle as Her Majesty's Government believe him to be, he can scarcely be insensible to the difficulties which are thus thrown in the way of a settlement. The assistance so openly given to Servia, with the presumed cognizance and permission of the Russian authorities, must tend to excite irritation in the minds of the Turkish Ministers and to make them suspicious of all attempts at pacification as only concealing designs for the benefit of their opponents. It cannot fail at the same time to raise the

hopes of the Servian Government and to render them less inclined to listen to reasonable terms. Beyond this there is the danger, which recent events have shown to be by no means imaginary, that the presence of so large a foreign element in the Servian army may lead to a spirit of insubordination, and constitute its commanders into military chiefs, independent and impatient of the control of Prince Milan's Government.

Her Majesty's Government would wish to press these considerations on the serious attention of the Emperor and his advisers, leaving it to them to decide how far the power which they must undoubtedly possess to check the movement in Russia, and above all in the Russian army, can be usefully and properly employed.

Your Excellency will take an opportunity of expressing yourself to the Russian Government in this sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 584.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 10, 1876, 9·30 P.M.

GRAND Council has decided to agree to an armistice of five months. This decision will be officially communicated to us to-morrow, and the guaranteeing Powers will, I believe, be invited to make all the arrangements for carrying it out. I have informed Consul-General at Belgrade.

No. 585.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 11, 1876, *noon.*

SERVIANS declare that they are ready to accept an armistice of one month or longer if it is offered in regular form.

Austrian and Russian Representatives have received their instructions, but we cannot make any formal proposal until we hear the Porte has agreed to the armistice.

No. 586.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1876, 4·20 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram which his Excellency has repeated to you, you should use your best endeavours to induce the Servian Government to accept the armistice without raising difficulties.

I have urged on Russian, Austrian, and other Governments the importance of prevailing upon Servia to accept.

No. 587.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and asked me if I had received any confirmation of the report that the Turkish Government had agreed to an armistice.

I told his Excellency that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had informed me by telegraph that the Grand Council had agreed to an armistice of five months' duration, and that this decision would be officially communicated to-day to the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers.

Count Schouvaloff asked me what, in my opinion, was the next step to be taken.

* Repeated to Embassies

I replied that it seemed to me in the first place essential, before entering into the question of a conference or other matters, to ensure the acceptance of the armistice by the other parties in the contest. From the insurgents, I did not think that much trouble was to be anticipated. The Prince of Montenegro, too, had lately shown a disposition for peace, and his acceptance of the armistice might reasonably be counted upon. It was only from the side of Servia that I saw cause to apprehend difficulties. There were now in the Servian army, from all accounts, not less than from 10,000 to 12,000 foreigners, most of whom were Russians. It was not to be expected that these foreign volunteers could be in favour of a speedy pacification or of any measures likely to lead to such a result. I thought there was some occasion to fear the effect which the feeling of so large and powerful a body might have upon the decisions of the Servian Government, and I trusted that the Russian Government would use all their influence at Belgrade to counteract any warlike disposition. If they could do so, I thought there could be little doubt of success.

Count Schouvaloff told me he would at once report what I had stated to Prince Gortchakow, and that he had no doubt his Government would act as I requested. He himself felt sanguine of the acceptance of the armistice by Servia, as the Servian Government, when refusing the offer to prolong the suspension of arms, had stated their willingness to conclude a regular armistice.

I said that the time had now arrived to show whether they were sincere in that statement. I concluded by reminding his Excellency of a former conversation, in which he had said that it lay with England to induce Turkey to agree to an armistice, and with Russia to bring Servia to accept it. I said Her Majesty's Government had now done their part and they looked to Russia to perform hers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 588.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador having called upon me to discuss the Turkish proposition for an armistice of five months' duration, I took the opportunity of urging strongly upon him the importance of inducing the Prince of Servia to accept the proposal without delay or objection. I expressed my fears lest the war party should be too strong both for Prince Milan and his advisers, in which case all the labour that we had expended in bringing the Porte to a wise decision would be thrown away, and the situation would become even more dangerous than before.

Count Beust promised to report what I had said to his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 589.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1876.

HER Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade has reported by telegraph that the Servian Government has declared its readiness to accept an armistice for one month, or for a longer period, if the offer should be made in a regular form, adding that the Austrian and Russian Representatives have received instructions, but that no formal proposal can be made by the Agents of the Powers at Belgrade until they shall have been informed of the assent of the Porte.

I have pressed both upon Count Beust and Count Schouvaloff the importance of steps being taken by the Austrian and Russian Governments to induce Servia to accept the armistice; and it is my wish that your Excellency should lose no opportunity of urging this upon Count Andrassy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 590.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.**

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1876.

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna,† stating that I had strongly urged upon Count Beust the importance of inducing the Prince of Servia to accept, without delay or objection, the Turkish proposal for an armistice of five months.

I have spoken in the same sense to Count Schouvaloff, and I have instructed by telegraph Her Majesty's Consul at Belgrade to use his best endeavours to secure this result.

I should wish your Excellency to speak in the same sense to Prince Bismarck, and to express the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that the German Government will use every effort to induce the Servian Government to accept frankly and at once the proffered armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 591.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.‡

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1876, 6 P.M.

I CONGRATULATE you on the success of your efforts to bring about an armistice. It is mainly due to your ability and perseverance.

I have pressed on the Russian and Austrian Governments the importance of inducing Servia to accept the armistice.

No. 592.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 11, 1876, 1.30 P.M.

ON receipt of your Lordship's despatch of September 27, inclosing copy of a letter published in the "Times" by the Rev. Thomas Smith about a Bulgarian girl who had been given to a Turkish soldier in payment of his wages, I telegraphed to Mr. Moore, Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, to ascertain all particulars of the case from the Anglican Bishop, and to try to find out the name of the soldier and of his commanding officer in order that I might have the case thoroughly investigated. I have received the following answer from him :—

"The Bishop says that he overheard some people in the street telling the story, and has no further information. I have myself made inquiries, with no result as yet, and will continue them."

No. 593.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 12.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Le 27 Septembre*, 1876.

PAR ma dépêche Circulaire du 19 Juillet, je vous ai communiqué la correspondence échangée entre mon Département et l'Agence des Principautés Unies à Constantinople au sujet de l'arrangement intervenu avec les Principautés, et en vertu duquel le Gouvernement Impérial s'était engagé à s'abstenir d'entretenir des navires de guerre dans la partie comprise entre Négotine et Verciorova, sous la condition expresse que les autorités Moldo-Valaques empêcheraient, de leur côté, le passage et l'introduction en Serbie des munitions de guerre, de volontaires et tout acte contraire à la neutralité.

* Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Lyons, Lord A. Loftus, and Mr. Malet.
† No. 589.
‡ Repeated to Embassies.

Cependant, la Sublime Porte a été à même de constater que cette condition essentielle n'est nullement observée, et que le transport de munitions de guerre et le passage de volontaires à destination de Belgrade par la partie précitée du Danube prend depuis quelque temps des proportions considérables. J'ai donc cru devoir adresser à l'Agence Princière à Constantinople la lettre dont vous trouverez ci-joint la copie pour votre propre information.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *September* 27, 1876.

BY my circular despatch of July 19, I communicated to you the correspondence that had passed between my Department and the Agency of the United Principalities at Constantinople on the subject of the arrangement come to with the Principalities, in virtue of which the Imperial Government had engaged to refrain from keeping vessels of war in the part between Negotine and Verciorova, on the express condition that the Moldo-Wallachan authorities would, on their side, prevent the passage and introduction into Servia of munitions of war, of volunteers, and all acts contrary to neutrality.

The Sublime Porte, however, has ascertained that this essential condition has been in no way observed, and that the transport of munitions of war and the passage of volunteers destined for Belgrade, by way of the above-mentioned part of the Danube, has for some time past assumed considerable proportions. I have therefore thought it my duty to address to the Prince's Agency at Constantinople the letter of which I inclose you herewith a copy for your own information.

I request, &c.
(Signed) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 593.

Safvet Pasha to Prince Ghika.

Le 14 *Septembre*, 1876.

L'ARRANGEMENT intervenu entre la Sublime Porte et les Principautés Unies a stipulé, comme vous le savez, que le Gouvernement Impérial s'abstiendrait d'entretenir des navires de guerre dans la partie du Danube qui sépare les Principautés Unies de la Serbie comprise entre Négotine et Verciorova, mais sous la condition expresse que les autorités Moldo-Valaques empêcheraient le passage et l'introduction en Serbie de munitions de guerre, de volontaires et tout acte contraire à la neutralité.

Le Gouvernement Impérial a le regret de constater que cette condition essentielle n'a été nullement observée, et qu'il résulte des rapports officiels et privés qui lui sont parvenus que la partie du Danube ainsi neutralisée sert journellement de passage non-seulement à des munitions de guerre mais encore à des individus isolés ou réunis en bande qui se rendent en Serbie dans l'intention avouée et notoire de porter les armes contre l'Empire Ottomane.

En portant ces faits à la connaissance de l'Agence Princière, le Gouvernement Impérial espère que les autorités Princières prendront sans aucun retard les mesures les plus nergiques et les plus efficaces pour mettre fin à cet état de choses contraire à l'engagement susmentionné et qui a pris depuis quelque temps des proportions considérables. Il croit en même temps devoir ajouter que, si ces faits venaient à se renouveler, il se verrait obligé de placer deux canonnières dans cette partie du Danube pour exercer la surveillance que les autorités Princières seraient dès lors reconnues impuissantes à assurer.

(Translation.)

September 14, 1876.

IT was stipulated, as you are aware, in the arrangement come to between the Sublime Porte and the United Principalities that the Imperial Government should refrain from keeping vessels of war in that part of the Danube, between Negotine and Verciorova, which separates the United Principalities from Servia, but on the express condition that the Moldo-Wallachian authorities should prevent the passage and introduction into Servia of munitions of war, of volunteers, and the perpetration of all acts contrary to neutrality.

The Imperial Government regrets to state that this essential condition has been by no means observed, and it appears from the official and private reports which have reached it, that the part of the Danube thus neutralised, serves daily as a passage not only for munitions of war, but also to individuals, either by themselves or in bodies, who

are on their way to Servia with the avowed and notorious intention of bearing arms against the Ottoman Empire.

In bringing these facts to the knowledge of the Prince's Agency, the Imperial Government hopes that the authorities of the Principality will without delay take most energetic and effective measures to put an end to this state of things, which is contrary to the above-mentioned engagement, and which has assumed for some time past considerable proportions. The Imperial Government thinks it right to add, at the same time, that if these acts are renewed, they will be forced to place two gunboats in this part of the Danube to exercise that supervision which the authorities of the Principality would then be recognised as powerless to ensure.

No. 594.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 12.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 5, 1876.

M. JONESCO called upon me very early yesterday morning to inform me that he had just received a telegram from the Roumanian Agent at Vienna, to the effect that the letter conveyed by General Sumarokoff contained proposals that, in the event of the Porte not offering satisfactory guarantees, Bulgaria should be occupied by a Russian, and Bosnia and Herzegovina by an Austrian, force.

Under these circumstances the Minister urgently begged me to telegraph your Lordship, to express the desire that the position of Roumania should be regulated by the Guaranteeing Powers.

M. Jonesco read me a telegram which he had dispatched to their Agent at St. Petersburgh to lay the matter before the Russian Government, and requesting that the "delicacy" of their position should receive due consideration.

M. Jonesco stated that Roumania places herself entirely and unreservedly in the hands of the Guaranteeing Powers; that she had been called into existence by them, and that she depended upon them for the protection of her existence as a separate race, if not nationality, of her free institutions; that the Roumanian Government consider that this country has obligations to the Guaranteeing Powers, as well as to the Porte; and that they consider that the interests of both are best secured by her openly demanding the regulation of her position by the joint action of the Six Powers, rather than by intrigues at St. Petersburgh, or by obtaining half-hearted promises from Austria.

I told the Minister that I had no right to express any opinion on the subject in question on the part of your Lordship, but that one thing was quite certain, that a frank and open policy would always meet the hearty approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I ventured to recommend a similar course with regard to St. Petersburgh; that they might have their misgivings, but that there was no real reason to suppose that the Russian Government was disposed to menace the existence of Roumania; and, moreover, that Russia is one of the Guaranteeing Powers. That from your Lordship's and Lord Beaconsfield's speeches on recent occasions, it might be gathered that Her Majesty's Government was, on the whole, satisfied with the attitude of Russia; that the latter might perhaps demand more exact conditions for the Christian provinces, but that it appeared to me that the present policy of Russia is to protect and develop the Christian populations in the East, and not to absorb them.

Since M. Jonesco's visit, I have seen many persons connected with the Government and others of weight in the country, and I quite gather that the general feeling entirely goes along with the Ministers, and, moreover, that their policy has the cordial support of Prince Charles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 595.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 12, 12·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1876, 11·45 A.M.

I HAVE asked the Porte to order cessation of hostilities while a formal armistice is being arranged, if similar orders are given by the Servian Government.

No. 596.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12, 5·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 12, 1876, 4·45 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs refuses to recommend Servia to accept the armistice of five months unless a better acquaintance with its terms alters his opinion of it, as he considers that it would be ruin to Servia and Montenegro, and that its proposal by the Porte aggravates the situation.

No. 597.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 12, 1876.*

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to bring to the knowledge of the Porte Mr. Reade's despatch to your Excellency of the 20th ultimo, inclosing an account of the massacre which took place at Vratza in the month of May last.

Your Excellency will also instruct Mr. Baring to lay the matter before the Bulgarian Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 598.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, October 5, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed copies of two despatches addressed by me to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, on the 28th and 29th ultimo, relative to the state of affairs at Sulina, and the regulations respecting the carrying of arms in this vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 598.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, September 28, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to bring under your Excellency's notice a subject which you may deem worthy of consideration.

The maritime working population of Sulina, composed of Greeks, Turks, and Tartars, is comparatively very considerable in number, and consists of the very lowest classes.

During the present year several strikes have taken place amongst them, and which have led to very serious disturbances—serious from the very inadequate force at the disposal of the local authorities of Sulina.

One of these disturbances was so grave that Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" proceeded to the spot for the protection of British interests there.

On another occasion one or two Ottoman gun-boats were dispatched to the assistance of the local authorities.

On the 28th ultimo, Vice-Consul Stokes reported to me the continuation of a very bad state of things, and now he has transmitted to me a petition he has received from the British merchants at Sulina, which he can fully endorse, and copy of which I have further the honour to inclose for your Excellency's consideration.

From what I have also heard from some of my colleagues here, I am of opinion that the matter merits consideration, as, if the authorities at Sulina be not furnished with more means for quelling any further disturbances that may arise than they possess at this moment, such an outbreak may take place (particularly during the ensuing winter, when there is so little work) as may be attended by serious consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 598.

British Merchants at Sulina to Vice-Consul Stokes.

Sir,

THE undersigned British merchants at this town and port have the honour to bring under your notice the following facts:—

The bulk of the working population of Sulina, as you are aware, is composed of Greeks, Turks, and Tartars of the lowest class, and during the present year numerous strikes have been made by one or other of them, as well as by all of these classes, which have led to serious disorders and fighting amongst them, to the no small detriment of commerce, as well as to the alarm of the peaceably disposed inhabitants. One of these fights having taken place beneath the windows of your Vice-Consulate, you will, by your own personal observation, have been able to perceive that it was quite serious enough to cause anxiety on the part of the peaceable residents of the place.

The Turkish working population has been quite recently recruited by some 300 individuals, far more of the appearance of Bashi-Bazouks than of peaceable workpeople; and since their arrival disturbances have been more frequent than before. It is also stated and generally believed that they, as well as the workmen of other nationalities, are armed.

Under the present circumstances of excitement caused by the war between Turkey and her vassal States, you must be aware that with a mixed population such as ours very little provocation on either side might lead to very serious results; and you yourself saw that a most serious conflict arose but recently from a simple scuffle between two little boys, the one a Greek or Russian, and the other a Turk, and that under the very nose of the authorities, who at the time had nothing like an adequate force to quell it; and had not one side of the rioters taken refuge on board a Turkish transport ship (and even then were well stoned from the shore by the opposing faction) numerous deaths must inevitably have been the consequence.

The whole force at that time here under the orders of the Governor consisted of less than a dozen policemen, but since that some sixty or seventy soldiers have arrived. How long this force may remain there is no knowing, or in case of any serious disturbance whether they would make common cause with the disturbers of the peace, or attempt to restore order, is especially problematical.

Under these circumstances, the undersigned respectfully request that you will be good enough to state these facts to Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, praying that a British gunboat may be permanently stationed at Sulina, until such time as all apprehensions of disorder or danger shall be over.

The undersigned may especially mention the necessity of this precaution during the ensuing winter, as during that season idleness and drinking on the part of the lower orders are even far more likely to lead to mischief than disagreements about work, where pretty well all can find employment.

In case also of any riots, plunder or massacre occurring it must also be remembered that the quiet portion of the inhabitants would be entirely at the mercy of the rioters flight would be impossible, as they have the ice-bound Danube on the one side, the Black Sea on the other, and frozen marshes all round, while for the same reasons no assistance could be sent from outside, even should it luckily happen (contrary to the general rule at Sulina in the winter season) that the telegraph were in working order, at the time it might be wanted.

According to Treaty the British Government can have two small vessels of war stationed at Sulina or in the Danube; and since 1856 there has always been at least one in the river for some eight or nine months in the year. This has, however, generally been stationed during the greater part of that period at Galatz. Now, however, that matters are assuming anything but a pleasant aspect, and comparatively little necessity existing for the presence of a vessel of war up river, we the Undersigned would respectfully ask you to take such steps as you may deem necessary for a vessel to be permanently stationed at this port, as well as through the ensuing winter for the reasons above stated.

We have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. JACKSON.
ARCHIBALD HADDEN.
WM. EAGLE.
WM. WRIGHT.
ROBERT B. WRIGHT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 598.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, September* 29, 1876.

CERTAIN regulations of the Porte respecting the carrying of arms in the country districts have been promulgated here, and have increased the feeling of alarm amongst the Christians of the vilayet.

It appears that every person carrying arms about him is bound to exhibit his "teskéré" or Government permit, in the absence of which he is to be seized and brought before the authorities, and if he resists he is to be shot on the spot.

It is well known that no Christian dares ask a Mussulman for his teskéré, much less shoot him for not exhibiting it, consequently they (the Christians) say that the result of these regulations will be to enable the Mussulmans to carry their arms whilst they will be unable to do so.

From the state of feeling amongst the Mussulmans and Christians here, I really believe that there is something in what the latter say, and if the authorities are not strictly compelled to rigorously enforce these regulations as regards the Mussulmans, it will only add to the unsatisfactory state of things that already exists in this vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 599.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

My Lord, *Rome, October* 3, 1876.

I SPOKE to Signor Melegari to-day on the subject of Montenegro's claims in case of a peaceful solution of the Eastern difficulties, with a view to learn the grounds upon which his Excellency objects to the cession of a port to the Principality, a proposal which is generally put forward when its wants and rights are discussed.

Signor Melegari said that he should be willing to see the territory of the Principality rounded, though he supposed there would be some difficulty in inducing the Porte to give up Podgoritza, but that he could not support the project to obtain for it territory communicating with the sea.

He said that there was no port on that bit of coast which could be of much use unless improved at an expense which a great and wealthy country could alone incur, and that it behoved us to consider whether, while such a port would be in name Montenegrin, it would not also for all purposes and at all times be the available harbour of another Power.

He pointed out on the map that it would be the door of the Turkish provinces adjacent to Montenegro, and he observed that at present this door was walled up, but that once free it could be used for objects which might be a constant source of embarrassment to Turkey, and, he said, that with regard to the commercial requirements of the Principality he considered that the Lake of Scutari and the River Boyana furnished sufficient outlet. On the other hand, he said, that if after due consideration the other Powers were united in their desire to obtain such a cession, Italy could not take up a position of absolute opposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 600.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

My Lord, *Rome, October* 5, 1876.

SIGNOR MELEGARI informed me to-day that the Russian Ambassador had communicated to him a proposal on the part of Russia that an armistice of six weeks should now be demanded of the Porte with a view to give time to the Powers to concert as to the means of arranging the questions at present pending. He had also suggested that in case the armistice were refused, diplomatic relations with Turkey should be broken off.

His Excellency said that as yet he had made no reply to the proposal, as no Council had met since he had received it, but that in any case he should have returned a temporising answer in order to allow him time to become acquainted with the replies of the other Powers, and especially of England. He reverted to his frequently expressed desire that England should continue to take the lead, and he declared the readiness of Italy to follow her "pour tout et par tout."

Under these circumstances he requested me to ascertain, if possible, the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, and I have accordingly addressed a telegram to your Lordship on the subject this afternoon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 601.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 13.)

My Lord, *Rome, October* 9, 1876.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegraphic despatch, dated the 5th instant, I informed Signor Melegari that Her Majesty's Government, after having considered a communication made to them by the Russian Ambassador, had decided to give their support to the proposal for an armistice of not less than a month, as the next step to be taken in the event of the rejection by Turkey of the terms proposed as a basis of peace.

I also informed His Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have been unable to concur in measures of occupation and the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus, which had been previously suggested by Prince Gortchakow.

Signor Melegari told me that he had learnt with much satisfaction that Austro-Hungary had likewise refused to co-operate in the proposed intervention in the Turkish Provinces, for the presence of an Austrian occupying force in Bosnia would be a serious embarrassment to Italy, and would arouse questions which are happily at present dormant.

His Excellency most earnestly deprecates an attempt at the settlement of the Eastern question at present, using the word settlement to mean the disruption of Turkey in Europe, and he believes that the proposed occupation would, without fail, ultimately lead to such a result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 602.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 13.)

My Lord, *Rome, October* 9, 1876.

SIGNOR MELEGARI read to me to-day a despatch which he had received from Signor Corti, the Italian Minister at Constantinople, stating that Sir Henry Elliot was to press the Porte, in case she formally refused the English propositions of peace, to grant an armistice, and that he was to state that, if this were refused, he should leave Constantinople; he was to add that an armistice was to be followed by a Conference.

Signor Melegari went on to remind me of the Russian suggestion, of which he had informed me on Thursday last that, in the event of an armistice being refused, diplomatic relations should be broken off, and he said that the Russian Ambassador, knowing that Count Corti's instructions were to support Sir Henry Elliot and to follow his example, had inquired whether the threat to leave Constantinople was intended merely as a threat, or whether it was a fixed policy in case the armistice was refused. Signor Melegari had replied that no one could make such a threat without intending to carry it out; that we were not playing with children whom we could frighten with a ghost, and that certainly the threat was a serious one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 603.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

My Lord, *Rome, October* 9, 1876.

SIGNOR MELEGARI informed me to-day that the Russian Ambassador had called upon him this morning, and had informed him, by order of his Government, that the question now arose as to whether, in the event of the Porte consenting to an armistice, she should be allowed to have a Representative in the Conference which was to follow, and the Ambassador announced that the Russian Government objected to the presence of a Turkish Representative.

Signor Melegari had said that he could give no reply at present to the communication made by the Russian Ambassador; that he could not resist expressing surprise at it, but that he requested the Ambassador not to do more than say that it should be taken into consideration. To me, Signor Melegari would say that he thought the pretension to exclude the Turkish Representative was not founded upon justice, and that it was contrary to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris. He deemed, moreover, that at this moment it was a most unfortunate move.

Sir Henry Elliot was pressing for an armistice on the understanding that a Conference was immediately to follow. Supposing that, on this understanding, the Porte gave way, was she subsequently to be told that the Conference was indeed to take place, but that she was not to be admitted to it? Would not the knowledge that such a proposal had been made by Russia at this moment preclude the hope that the Porte would yield to the armistice?

The last news which he had from Constantinople stated that there was now a greater chance of the Porte's giving way. It would be most deplorable if this new complication should, as appeared likely, augment the desperation of the Porte and the disunion of the Powers. He was not prepared for the step on the part of Russia, as she had previously accepted the idea of a Conference, with the provision that it would consist of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, but at that time she had not stated her desire that the Porte should be excluded from its deliberations.

With regard to the Conference as it is now proposed, Signor Melegari seems to think that Sir Henry Elliot's instructions are that it should be held at Constantinople, which his Excellency thinks, for many reasons, is a most undesirable seat for it, but on this point, as on many others, he states that he has been willing to waive his own objections for the sake of agreement with England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 604.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

My Lord, *Rome, October* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs in consequence of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 5th instant, which I received this morning, and which directs me to acquaint the Italian Government with the substance of the reply of Her Majesty's Government to the Russian Government regarding the imposition of an armistice upon the Porte, the occupation of Bosnia and Bulgaria, and the entry of the fleets into the Bosphorus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 604.

Mr. Malet to M. Melegari.

M. le Ministre, *Rome, October* 10, 1876.

IN compliance with instructions from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government has informed the Government of the Emperor of Russia, in reply to a

proposal on the part of that Government to impose upon the Porte an armistice or truce of six weeks, that they will support at Constantinople the proposal for the conclusion of an armistice of not less than a month as the next step to be taken in the event of the definitive rejection by the Porte of the terms of peace which had been proposed by Her Majesty's Government and had been supported by the other Powers; but that they cannot concur in the previous suggestion of Prince Gortchakow as to the occupation of Bulgaria and Bosnia and the entry of the fleets into the Bosphorus.

I am also instructed to state to your Excellency that Sir H. Elliot, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, has been directed to intimate to the Porte that if the terms of peace shall be rejected, and the armistice accepted, it is the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that a Conference should immediately assemble.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. MALET

No. 605.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 13.)

My Lord, *Athens, October* 2, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that a meeting which was largely attended by all classes of the population of Athens, was held at the Pnyx yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was presided over by the Rector of the University; the Metropolitan and many dignitaries of the Greek Church, the members of the Municipal bodies of Athens and of the Piræus, and many members of the Chamber of Deputies were present.

Messrs. Paparigopoulos, Kokinos and Damalas, Professors at the University, addressed the meeting.

The speech of M. Paparigopoulos, which is, I think, the speech most worthy of notice, called the attention of the Assembly to the injustice done by the Great Powers of Europe to the inhabitants of the Provinces of Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus, and of Crete, in not advocating for them the same privileges and concessions as they had advocated for Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, and set forth that, if such was the reward for insurrection, the Greeks should adopt the same course as that adopted by the inhabitants of those provinces.

Allusion was made to the sufferings of the Greeks at the hands of the Turks during the War of Independence, which sufferings the Greeks of to-day, I may mention, appear to consider to be a claim for further consideration at the hands of the Great Powers.

M. Paparigopoulos said that he did not urge that the Turk should be ejected from Europe, but he demanded equal rights for Christians as for Turks, giving some interesting statistics as to the unequal degree in which taxation is borne by the members of the Christian and Mahommedan creeds.

At the close of the meeting the following resolutions were proposed and adopted:

"1. The meeting to protest against the injustice so unexpectedly done to our brethren.

"2. To declare that the Hellenic nation, being courageous and possessing sentiments of honour, cannot remain indifferent to the unheard of injustice and contempt of our brethren in Turkey."

Professor Damalas read also the following resolution:

"The principal members of the meeting to wait upon the Government and request it:—

"1st. To address proper representations to the Great Powers respecting the injustice offered to our brethren in Turkey.

"2nd. To resume with all due energy the necessary measures for the organization of the naval and land forces of the country and of the nation."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 606.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 13.)

My Lord, *Athens, October* 4, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship a translation by Mr. Lambros, to which I beg to call your attention, of the reply made by M. Coumoundouros, the President of the Council, to the deputation charged with laying before the Government the resolutions passed at the meeting held at Athens on the 1st instant, an account of which I have given to your Lordship in my despatch of the 2nd instant.

The language held by M. Coumoundouros appears prudent, and not calculated to excite unduly the public mind in Greece. He says that he agrees in the opinion expressed at the meeting that steps must be taken for the organisation of the military and naval forces of the country, and that measures for the furtherance of that object will be shortly submitted to the Chamber. He states that the policy hitherto pursued by the Government has been in accordance with public opinion, that it has been a prudent policy, and that in politics prudence must predominate; but the internal order and security of Greece being connected with the state of the neighbouring provinces the Government cannot maintain an indifferent attitude; and he concludes by expressing the conviction that the prudence and wisdom of the Turkish Government and the humanity of Europe will never allow the Christian populations of Turkey to believe that the gates of justice and of humanity cannot be opened must be forced.

A meeting was held on the evening of the 2nd instant at the Piræus, with the same object as that held on the 1st instant at Athens; and Mr. Wood, Her Majesty's Consul at Patras, informs me, in a letter dated the 2nd instant, "that he considers the public mind in Greece to be in a very unsettled state, for if nothing is done for Thessaly, Epirus, and Crete by the Great Powers, the Greeks are quite capable of some warlike movement against Turkey, especially if the war with Servia and Montenegro is prolonged."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 606.

Extract from the "Ethnikon Pneuma" of October 3, 1876 (*n.s.*)

(Translation.)

Reply of M. Coumoundouros to the Delegates of the Meeting at the "Pynx."

Gentlemen,

WITH great pleasure and due attention I have listened to the wishes of the population of Athens. Likewise animated by this same idea of national preparation, when called to the head of affairs our most serious attention was given to the subject, but, owing to limited means and authority, we were unable to remedy more than a few of the most essential wants.

However, provisions for the development of our naval and land forces, on a footing consistent with the necessities of all possible requirements, are objects which I likewise share with you.

In view of this object the entire nation must take up the struggle and subject itself to serious sacrifices.

Having considered this question we have prepared, and will lay before the Chamber as soon as a House is formed, measures which I hope will be considered as meeting the said requirements.

Much advice and exhortation has already been heard upon the subject, but to prepare national forces effective sacrifices are required, which we must cheerfully undertake, and inscribe at the same time this measure, as an indispensable condition of an immovable policy upon the national flag, if we desire to maintain the dignity of the Hellenic name and our position in the word, and to fulfil our destiny.

Greece, an independent nation, forming part of the European family, had strong reasons not to oppose herself to the policy openly professed by the public opinion and the Governments of Europe. In this Greece followed a policy of prudence, and not of sentiment; but let us not forget, because we are the result of common struggles and sacrifices, the ties of blood, of sacred oaths, which exercised an influence over all our past Eastern policy, and we must not neglect that prudence must predominate in politics.

Sentiment, however, has always its influence, especially when the causes are so

great. Besides, the internal security, order, and financial condition of Greece are, as has often been proved, connected with the state of the neighbouring Provinces. In such a case the question in a certain sense becomes an internal one, therefore the Government could not have remained indifferent.

Since the Greeks in Turkey have repeatedly supported their claims by rivers of blood, I think I make no mistake in believing that should the question be again brought up by the Christian races for re-examination, with a view of avoiding fresh catastrophes and sacrifices, they have acted thus in the conviction that neither their unquestionable rights have been effaced, nor that their sufferings have been forgotten.

This has been certified by the Turkish Government declaring the necessity of reform and amendment.

This conduct has saved Turkey from serious complications, and has facilitated the work of Europe. For this reason I am convinced that the prudence and wisdom of the Turkish Government and the humanity of Europe will never allow those populations to believe that the gates of justice and of humanity are not to be opened, but forced; the consolidation of such a conviction would have as result serious changes and great dangers.

No. 607.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 13.)

My Lord, *Paris, October* 12, 1876.

IN pursuance of the instruction which I received by telegraph from your Lordship last night, I went this morning to the Duc Decazes, and represented to him the importance of taking measures to induce the Servians to agree to the armistice.

The Duke authorized me to inform your Lordship that he would send immediately instructions to the French Agent at Belgrade to urge the Servians to do so without delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 608.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 13.)

(Extract.) *Paris, October* 12, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes recited to me this morning the contents of a telegram, dated, I think, yesterday, which he had received from the French Agent at Belgrade.

It stated that the English and Russian Agents there had agreed to recommend Prince Milan to accept the armistice as soon as they should receive official intelligence of its having been accepted by the Porte. He added that the Austrian Agent had expressed his readiness to unite with his two colleagues, but that the German and Italian Representatives were without instructions.

The French Agent went on in the telegram to say that he himself had determined to act with his English, Russian, and Austrian colleagues, and had suggested that they should make a preliminary representation to the Servian Government at once; and he observed that this would have the advantage of paving the way for the favourable reception of the formal proposal.

The Duc Decazes expressed his approval of this suggestion of the French Agent, and proceeded to ask me if I knew what were the conditions which the Porte attached to its own acceptance of the armistice.

I answered that I had of course seen the numerous statements made in the newspapers with regard to conditions alleged to have been laid down by the Porte, but that none of the official information I had received in any degree confirmed these statements.

The Duke replied that the Comte de Bourgoing, the French Ambassador at Constantinople, had reported by telegraph that at the end of the Grand Council held the day before yesterday at that place Safvet Pasha had informed the dragomans of the Embassies that on the motion of the Ministers the Council had consented to an armistice to last till the middle of March, and that the conditions which the Porte attached to its consent would be communicated to the Ambassadors on the following day.

The Duke had, he said, received no further report from M. de Bourgoing. He hoped that the conditions merely related to the military arrangements for carrying the armistice into effect, but he could not help feeling some anxiety.

No. 609.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 13.)

My Lord, *Paris, October* 12, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes spoke to me at some length this morning, on the subject of the proposed Conference on the Eastern question.

The Austrian Government had, he observed, put forward four points for preliminary consideration: first, whether the Porte is to take part in the Conference; second, where the Conference is to be held; third, whether or not it is to be composed of the foreign Ministers of the respective countries; fourth, what is to be the programme of it.

The first point appeared to the Duke to present the greatest difficulty.

It would, he said, be hardly compatible with the spirit, or even with the letter, of the Treaty of Paris, for the Powers to hold a Conference on the internal affairs of Turkey without the participation of the Porte.

In reply to this objection to the exclusion of the Porte, Prince Gortchakow had, the Duke told me, referred him to a Protocol stated to have been signed in 1861, and to lay down the principle that the Powers were entitled to confer among themselves on Turkish matters. The Duke had searched in vain for this Protocol in the French Archives. The nearest approach to it which he had discovered appeared in the Preamble of a Protocol on the affairs of the Lebanon, signed in 1860.

Prince Gortchakow had, however, declared that it was not to this Protocol of 1860 he referred, and that he would get the exact date and text of the Protocol of 1861 from St. Petersburgh, and communicate it to the French Government.

The Duke went on to say that perhaps the best way of turning the difficulty would be to divide the proceedings into two parts. Meetings might be held in the first instance by the representatives of the guaranteeing Powers.

The Powers having thus come to an agreement among themselves as to the proposals to be made to the Porte, a regular Conference, in which a Turkish Plenipotentiary should take part, might be held, in order to give effect to those proposals.

The Duke proceeded to enter into a theoretical discussion on the form in which the preliminary meetings should be held, and on the name which should be given to them. In regular course a Congress, he said, ended in a Treaty, and a Conference in a Protocol. With a view to sparing the self-love of the Turks, it might be desirable to avoid the use of either of these denominations. On the other hand, it seemed essential that some document of binding force should be signed to establish the agreement to which the Powers might come among themselves.

The new form of administration in the Lebanon had been settled by a European Commission. It had been hinted to the Duke from Constantinople, though not by the Turkish Ministers, that the Porte would not object to the appointment of a European Commission to watch over the execution of the new great reform which the Porte proposed to extend to the whole Empire. Perhaps such a Commission might now be formed to settle the conditions of peace and the administrative reforms to be pressed by the Powers on the Porte.

On the other hand, the Duke had reason to think that negotiations with Russia would be very much facilitated if satisfaction were given to the desire of that Power that a formal Conference, even though only of a preliminary character, should be held without the participation of the Porte.

As to the second point in the Austrian inquiries, the Duke conceived that, in most respects, Constantinople appeared to be the best place for the Conference. There were, however, two objections. It might be regarded by the Turks as peculiarly offensive to exclude them from a Conference held at the seat of their own Government, or not to follow the usual rule and assign the Presidency of the Congress to the Plenipotentiary of the Power in whose capital it was held.

As regarded the third point, the Duc Decazes observed that of course it was out of the question that the several Ministers for Foreign Affairs should go to Constantinople, and that there were Parliamentary and other considerations which would put it out of the power of some of them to leave their own respective countries at all for any length of time. He

thought, therefore, that if the Conference were held, it must be composed of diplomatic Plenipotentiaries in the usual way.

As to the last point, the settling beforehand the programme of the Conference, the Duc Decazes did not foresee any great difficulty.

The basis of it would, he presumed, be the proposals which had been drawn up by Her Majesty's Government, and which had been adopted by the five other Powers, and recommended to the Porte.

I told the Duc Decazes that the Austrian inquiries had been submitted to your Lordship by the Comte de Beust.

I said that you had reserved your opinion on the question whether or not the Porte should be represented at the Conference, and had said to M. de Beust that it would be necessary to ascertain the views of the other Powers.

Your Lordship had also, I said, reserved a final expression of opinion as to the seat of the Conference, but had observed that, personally, you were inclined to think that Constantinople would be the most convenient place.

As regarded the third point, your Lordship had stated that the personal attendance of the Minister for Foreign Affairs at a Conference of which the sitting might last some time would be unadvisable.

Finally, I told the Duc Decazes that, with regard to the last point, your Lordship had said to M. de Beust that you considered that a Conference without a basis would not be likely to lead to good results, and that you thought that a programme ought to be agreed upon beforehand, but that the terms of such a programme would require to be framed with care.

In answer to an observation made by the Duc Decazes, I said that your Lordship had had a conversation the day before yesterday with the Comte de Schouvaloff, who had stated to you reasons against the admission of the Porte to the proposed Conference ; and that your Lordship had reserved your opinion and had merely said that the views expressed by his Excellency should have the fullest consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 610.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October* 13.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 12 *Octobre*, 1876.

VOICI les institutions dont Sa Majesté le Sultan vient de doter l'Empire :

Une Assemblée Générale, composée de membres élus par les habitants des villages et de la capitale, sera convoquée à Constantinople. Cette Assemblée, dont la session annuelle sera de trois mois, aura pour mandat de voter les impôts et les budgets de l'Empire.

Une autre Assemblée, dont les membres seront nommés par l'Etat, sera investie, dans les limites restreintes et bien définies, des attributions d'un Sénat. Une Commission instituée à la Sublime Porte sous la présidence de Son Altesse Midhat Pacha, et composée de hauts fonctionnaires Musulmans et Chrétiens, élabore en ce moment la loi concernant les détails relatifs à la constitution de ces deux grands corps d'Etat.

Une autre loi, relative à la réorganisation de l'Administration des Provinces, assurera l'exécution de tout ce qui se trouve actuellement dans la loi des vilayets, en étendant dans une large mesure le droit d'élection, et comprendra, en même temps, les réformes pratiques qu'on a voulu voir introduites dans les provinces de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine.

Les Conseils Généraux des provinces auront le droit de veiller à l'exécution des lois et des règlements ; et, pour ne pas laisser le pouvoir exécutif sans contrôle dans l'intervalle des différentes sessions, cette tâche sera dévolue aux Conseils d'Administration, qui tirent également leur origine de l'élection populaire ; ils auront à expédier les affaires qui rentrent dans les attributions de Conseils Généraux, et à surveiller les agents de l'administration locale, de manière à ce qu'ils ne s'écartent pas des dispositions des lois et des règlements, et ne se laissent point entraîner à des actes arbitraires.

En outre, il été décidé d'améliorer le mode d'assiette et de perception des impôts partout dans l'Empire, d'imprimer aux cercles municipaux tout le développement qu'ils comportent, de leur affecter une partie des revenus publics, de réorganiser la police, en

un mot de faire passer dans le domaine des faits et de la vérité tous les progrès que peut procurer une organisation provinciale aussi complète que possible.

Ces différentes institutions répondent pleinement aux vœux exprimés par les Puissances, et donnent partout satisfaction aux besoins généralement sentis d'une amélioration radicale et offrent aussi des garanties de bonne administration.

Détails par courrier.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 12, 1876.

THE following are the institutions which His Majesty the Sultan has just conferred upon the Empire :—

A General Assembly, composed of members elected by the inhabitants of the villages and of the capital, will be convoked at Constantinople. This Assembly, whose annual session will last for three months, will be entrusted with voting the taxes and budgets of the Empire.

Another Assembly, of which the members will be nominated by the State, will be invested with the attributes of a Senate, within certain limits restricted and well defined. A Commission instituted at the Sublime Porte under the presidency of his Highness Midhat Pasha, and composed of high functionaries, Mussulmans and Christians, is at this moment working out the law concerning the details relating to the constitution of these two great State bodies.

Another law, relating to the re-organization of the administration of the provinces, will ensure the execution of everything that is at present contained in the Law of the Vilayets, while extending, in a large degree, the right of election, and will include, at the same time, the practical reforms which it is desired to see introduced into the provinces of Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

The general councils of the provinces will have the right of watching over the execution of the laws and regulations ; and so that the executive power may not be left without control in the interval between the different sessions, this task will devolve on the Councils of Administration, who likewise have their origin in election by the people ; they will have to deal with business coming under the province of the general councils, and to supervise the agents of the local administration, to see that they do not deviate from the dispositions of the laws and regulations, and do not give way to the commission of arbitrary acts.

Further, it has been decided to improve the mode of assessment and the collection of the taxes throughout the Empire ; to give the municipal circles all the development they admit of ; to assign them a share of the public revenues ; to re-organize the police ; in a word, to press into the domain of facts and reality all the progress that can be secured by as complete a provincial organization as possible.

These different institutions answer fully to the wishes expressed by the Powers, and everywhere satisfy the want generally felt of a radical amelioration, and also offer security for a good administration.

Details by messenger.

No. 611.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha October 13.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 12 *Octobre,* 1876.

LA Sublime Porte vient de consentir à un armistice de six mois expirant fin Mars. Voici la note que j'ai adressée aujourd'hui à ce sujet aux Représentants des Puissances médiatrices à Constantinople :—

"La Sublime Porte a pris en sérieuse considération la proposition des Puissances médiatrices touchant la conclusion d'un armistice régulier ayant pour but d'amener la suspension des hostilités avec la Serbie et le Montenégro. Dans sa communication du Septembre la Sublime Porte avait fait connaître aux Gouvernements amis les raisons qui ont, eu égard aux termes auxquels la question de la paix elle-même était ramenée, rendu superflue la conclusion d'un armistice en règle. Prenant acte aujourd'hui de la proposition des Puissances pour le rétablissement de la paix avec la Serbie et le Montenégro sur la base du *statu quo ante,* et tout en se déclarant toujours prêt à accepter la décision des Puissances au sujet des conditions proposées par lui dans sa susdite communication, le Gouvernement Impérial n'hésite pas à donner son consentement à la conclusion d'un armistice régulier. Il est toutefois aisé

de reconnaître que, vu l'approche de la mauvaise saison, il y a lieu de prolonger la durée de l'armistice bien au-delà du minimum demandé par les Puissances. Aussi la Sublime Porte croit-elle qu'elle doit comprendre une durée de six mois, commencant le 1er Octobre, finissant 31 Mars v.s.

"Il dépend maintenant des dispositions bienveillantes des Puissances médiatrices de hâter la suspension des hostilités en désignant le plus tôt possible leurs Délégués pour règler l'armistice sur les lieux.

"La Sublime Porte donnera immédiatement de son côté les instructions nécessaires aux commandants des troupes Impériales, et les délégués des Puissances auront à s'entendre avec eux ainsi qu'avec les chefs militaires des deux Principautés sur les détails pratiques, en tenant compte des exigences soulevées et de la nécessité de ne point laisser réoccuper par les Serbes les points qui sont actuellement en la possession des armées Ottomanes. Pleine de confiance dans les sentiments de haute equité des Puissances médiatrices, la Sublime Porte aime à croire en outre qu'elles voudront bien prendre des mesures efficaces et immédiates pour empêcher dans ce cas l'introduction d'armes et de munitions de guerre dans les Principautés et mettre définitivement un terme à l'affluence des volontaires qui viennent au dehors pour prendre une part active à la lutte. Il y a là un fait anormal qui alarme l'opinion publique en même temps qu'il cause au Gouvernement Impérial les plus graves difficultés. Sa continuation amènerait infailliblement des complications sérieuses et rendrait inutile les efforts pacifiques que l'on a en vue de seconder. Le Gouvernement Impérial est en même temps persuadé que les Puissances médiatrices, en faisant comprendre aux deux Principautés la nécessité de respecter religieusement dans l'avenir les obligations imposées par l'armistice, sauront les détourner de toute tentative qui aurait pour effet d'encourager directement ou indirectement les mouvements insurrectionnels dans les provinces limitrophes, et de fournir des seccurs aux insurgés. En précisant ainsi sa pensée la Sublime Porte espère avoir donné aux Puissances médiatrices une preuve de plus de son désir d'entourer l'armistice qu'elle vient d'accepter de toutes les garanties qui sont indispensables pour la réalisation des intentions amicales qui en ont déterminée la concession. Elle conserve l'assurance que, s'inspirant toujours des mêmes sentiments de sollicitude pour tout ce qui tient à l'honneur, à la dignité et à l'indépendance de l'Empire, les Puissances sauront mettre de côté tout ce qui pourra soulever des obstacles à l'œuvre si désirée de la pacification définitive."

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 12, 1876.

THE Sublime Porte has just consented to an armistice of six months, to expire at the end of March. Inclosed is the note which I have to-day addressed on this subject to the representatives of the Mediatory Powers at Constantinople.

The Sublime Porte has taken under serious consideration the proposition of the Mediatory Powers respecting the conclusion of a regular armistice, with the object of bringing about a suspension of hostilities with Servia and Montenegro. In its communication of the September, the Sublime Porte had made the friendly Governments aware of the reasons which have, with respect to the terms to which the question of peace itself had been brought, rendered superfluous the conclusion of a regular armistice. Bearing in mind the proposition of the Powers for the establishment of peace with Servia and Montenegro on the basis of the *statu quo ante*, and whilst declaring itself quite ready to accept the decisions of the Powers on the subject of the conditions proposed by it in its above-mentioned communication, the Imperial Government does not hesitate to consent to the conclusion of a regular armistice. It will however be readily recognized that, taking into consideration the approach of the bad season, there is every reason for prolonging the duration of the armistice much beyond the minimum demanded by the Powers. The Sublime Porte thus thinks that it should comprise a duration of six months, beginning October 1st, finishing March 31st, old style.

It now depends on the friendly dispositions of the Mediating Powers to hasten the suspension of hostilities by naming their Delegates to arrange the armistice on the spot.

The Sublime Porte will give on its side immediately the necessary instructions to the commanders of the Imperial troops, and the Delegates of the Powers will have to agree with them as well as with the military chiefs of the two Principalities, as to the practical details, taking into account necessities that have arisen, and the necessity of not allowing the points which are actually in the possession of the Ottoman armies to be reoccupied by the Servians. Confiding in the sentiments of high equity of the Mediating Powers, the Sublime Porte ventures to hope, also, that they will in this case take efficacious and

immediate measures to prevent the introduction of arms and munitions of war into the Principalities, and once for all to put a stop to the influx of volunteers who come from abroad to take an active part in the struggle.

This is an abnormal fact which alarms public opinion, at the same time that it causes the Imperial Government the gravest difficulties. Its continuation would infallibly bring about serious complications, and nullify the pacific efforts which it is desired to assist. The Imperial Government is at the same time persuaded that the Mediating Powers, whilst making the two Principalities understand the necessity of respecting religiously for the future the obligations imposed by the armistice, will be able to deter them from any attempt, the effect of which would be to encourage directly or indirectly insurrectionary movements in the border provinces, and to furnish help to the insurgents. Whilst thus expressing its wishes, the Sublime Porte hopes to have given to the Mediating Powers another proof of its wish to surround the armistice, which it has just accepted, with all the guarantees which are indispensable for the realization of the friendly intentions which have led them to make this concession. It holds to the hope that, still inspired with the same sentiments of solicitude for everything that touches the honour, dignity, and independence of the Empire, the Powers will succeed in putting aside everything that could raise obstacles to the work of definite pacification so earnestly desired.

No. 612.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October* 13.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 13 *Octobre*, 1876.

DANS un télégramme dont Sir Henry Elliot a donné communication à la Sublime Porte, Lord Derby pose au Gouvernement Impérial l'alternative d'accepter les conditions proposées ou de conclure un armistice en règle. L'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique nous a fait pressentir à cette occasion la probabilité de la réunion d'une Conférence, dans le cas où nous nous refuserions à une suspension d'armes.

Ainsi qu'il résulte de la note que j'ai remise hier soir aux Représentants des Six Puissances, la Sublime Porte se déclare prête à accepter un armistice de six mois du 1er Octobre au 31 Mars, vieux style, et s'en remet aux Délégués des Puissances du soin d'en régler les conditions, conformément aux exigences stratégiques de la situation, et de manière à satisfaire à la nécessité d'empêcher dans l'avenir les envois d'armes, aussi bien que le passage des volontaires, et de faire respecter par les deux Principautés les obligations découlant de l'armistice. Je ne doute pas que, sur ces derniers points, les Puissances ne tombent d'accord aisément, et qu'elles ne se montrent animées d'une sollicitude égale pour tout ce qui tient à l'honneur et aux droits de la Sublime Porte.

J'appelle maintenant l'attention de votre Excellence sur la question de la Conférence. La réunion projetée, si elle avait lieu, causerait tout au moins le danger de certains entraînements dont nous sommes en droit de nous préoccuper. Quand même nous entrerions dans cet aréopage Européen avec un programme arrêté de réformes, il pourrait surgir, dans le cours des pourparlers, des faits et des incidents qui, en amenant les parties à dépasser les limites tracées d'un commun accord, obligeraient la Sublime Porte de rappeler son Plénipotentiaire, ce qui nous exposerait à mécontenter la majorité qui aurait adopté les idées et les propositions rejetées ou combattues par nous. D'ailleurs, d'après la tournure que les choses ont prise, la réunion d'une Conférence ne serait en réalité d'aucune utilité.

En effet, l'échange de vues que les Puissances se proposeraient de faire par rapport à la question de paix devra être parfaitement atteint sans qu'on eût recours à une pareille mesure. Les six mois d'armistice, en amenant nécessairement une détente dans la situation, en permettant aux esprits de se calmer dans l'intervalle, laisseraient amplement aux Puissances le temps de s'expliquer, de se renseigner mutuellement, sans que la réunion d'une Conférence vînt fournir un nouvel aliment aux passions et aux ardeurs impatientes. Pendant ce temps, l'œuvre de la réforme intérieure ferait son chemin. L'Europe aurait l'occasion de s'édifier sur le caractère sérieux et pratique des promesses du Gouvernement Impérial. Nous aurions, nos amis auraient avec nous, des faits à opposer à nos détracteurs. Ce sont là des avantages incontestables, des éléments d'une valeur évidente pour la pacification matérielle et morale de l'Orient. Indépendamment de toutes les fins de non-recevoir, de toutes les résistances que nous aurions à opposer à tout projet tendant à nous faire dévier de cette voie, il me semble que le Gouvernement

de Sa Majesté Britannique sera le premier à s'apercevoir qu'il ne serait guère dans l'intérêt général de prendre immédiatement à ce sujet une décision qui enléverait du coup à la situation tout ce qu'elle présente de favorable à un arrangement satisfaisant pour toutes les parties engagées.

Je serais très-heureux de voir ces réflexions soumises à l'appréciation éclairée de Lord Derby avec toute la force de conviction et toute la connaissance des faits qui caractérisent votre Excellence. J'espère que sa Seigneurie sera d'accord avec nous pour empêcher que la question qui commence à peine à s'éclaircir, grâce à tant de sacrifices et d'efforts, ne soit engagée dans une voie pleine de nouvelles difficultés, de nouveaux périls.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 13, 1876.

IN a telegram which Sir H. Elliot has communicated to the Sublime Porte, Lord Derby gives the Imperial Government the alternative of accepting the conditions proposed and of concluding a regular armistice. The Ambassador of Her Britannic Majesty has suggested to us on this occasion the probability of a Conference being summoned in case we were to refuse a suspension of arms.

As will be seen by the note which I sent yesterday to the Representatives of the six Powers, the Sublime Porte declares that it is ready to accept an armistice of six months from the 1st October to the 31st March (o.s.), and leaves to the Delegates of the Powers the duty of regulating the conditions, in conformity with the strategic necessities of the situation, and so as to conform to the necessity of preventing imports of arms for the future, as well as the passage of volunteers, and to cause the obligations consequent on the armistice to be respected. I do not doubt but that on these last points the Powers will easily agree, and that they will show themselves to be animated by an equal solicitude for everything that touches the honour and the rights of the Sublime Porte.

I now call the attention of your Excellency to the question of the Conference. The projected meeting, if it takes place, would at least give rise to the danger of certain impulses, on which head we have the right to be anxious. Even if we were to enter this European council chamber with a fixed project of reforms, facts and incidents might arise in the course of the discussions which, whilst leading the parties to go beyond the limits decided on by common agreement, might force the Sublime Porte to withdraw its Plenipotentiary, and thus expose us to displease the majority which might have adopted the ideas and the propositions rejected or opposed by us. Added to which, from the turn things have taken, the meeting of a Conference would be in reality of no use.

In short, the exchange of views which the Powers would wish to make with reference to the question of peace can be readily realized without having recourse to such a measure.

The six months of armistice, by materially relieving the situation, by permitting passions to cool down in the interval, would leave ample time to the Powers to exchange explanations and observations, without any meeting of a Conference, which would only furnish fresh food for passion and impatient feelings.

During this time, the work of internal reform would go on; Europe would have the opportunity of being edified by the serious and practical character of the promises of the Imperial Government.

We should have, our friends with us would have, facts to oppose to our detractors. These are unanswerable advantages, elements of an evident value for the material and moral pacification of the East.

Independently of all the means of non-acceptance, of all the resistance which we should be able to oppose to every project having for object to force us to deviate from this course, it seems to me that the Government of Her Britannic Majesty will be the first to recognize that it will not be at all in the public interest to come on this subject to a decision, which would take away from the situation everything that is favourable to an arrangement satisfactory for all parties engaged.

I should be very glad to see these reflections submitted to the enlightened appreciation of Lord Derby, with all the force of conviction, and all the knowledge of facts which characterise your Excellency.

I hope that his Lordship will agree with us in preventing the question, which was just beginning to look brighter, thanks to so many sacrifices and efforts, from being turned into a path full of new difficulties and new perils.

No. 613.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 12, 1876, 6·30 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires, although speaking as he said without instructions, has expressed himself against a long armistice.

He was reminded that a short time ago his Government had asked for one of three months, upon which he answered that circumstances had changed in the meantime, and he did not believe that his Government would be satisfied with present proposal.

No. 614.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 12, 1876, 11·15 P.M.*

BY an official note Porte declares that, accepting the proposal of the Powers to re-establish peace with Servia and Montenegro on the basis of the *status quo ante bellum*, and being ready to accept the decision of the Powers upon the conditions proposed by it, it does not hesitate to agree to conclusion of a regular armistice. The Porte considers that it should be for six months from the beginning of October, and that it will depend on the mediating Powers to accelerate the suspension of hostilities by appointing as soon as possible their delegates to arrange the armistice on the spot.

Porte will immediately give its military authorities the necessary instructions, and the delegates of the Powers will have to come to an understanding with them and the Commanders of the two Principalities upon the details, and upon the necessity of the points now in possession of the Imperial troops not being re-occupied by the Servians.

Confiding in the equity of the mediating Powers, Porte hopes also that they will take measures to prevent during the armistice the introduction of arms and ammunition and the influx of volunteers to take part in the struggle, the continuation of which must lead to serious complications.

Porte further expresses its conviction that the Powers will make the Principalities understand the necessity of respecting the obligations imposed by the armistice will prevent them from giving encouragement to the insurgents in the neighbouring provinces.

I would point out to your Lordship that the last parts of this communication express the hopes and wishes of Porte, but do not give them as the conditions of its acceptation of the armistice.

No. 615.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 12, 1876, 7·40 P.M.*

PORTE has communicated the proposed reforms by an official note, which it asks the Representatives to forward to their Governments. It recapitulates the law of the vilayets, never put fully into execution in the preceding reign.

Remedy for grievances is to be found in a new organization giving the Provincial Assemblies a fresh development and vigour.

A General Assembly, elected by the populations of the capital and of the provinces, will be held at Constantinople, to vote the laws, the budget, and the taxes. A Second Chamber, of the nature of a Senate, with limited powers, will be nominated by the Porte.

In regard to provinces, the new law will accord the right of election on a large scale, and will comprise the reforms recommended for Bosnia and the Herzegovina. Provincial General Councils will watch over the execution of the laws; and in order not to leave the Executive Authorities without control during the intervals of the sessions, elective Administrative Councils will restrain the officials from arbitrary acts.

Manner of levying taxes will be reformed, and a portion of them locally expended;

* Repeated to Embassies.

the administration of justice to be reorganized, and the whole provincial organization to be completed as far as possible. Engagements taken by the Porte by its note of the 12th February, respecting Bosnia and Herzegovina, to be maintained.

This new organization of all the provinces, giving such extended attributions to local Councils, will satisfy the want generally felt for a radical improvement, and offer sufficient guarantees for a good administration, without giving exceptional privileges, exciting fallacious hopes on the one side and undeserved encouragement on the other, or increasing the unfortunate animosities between the different classes of the subjects of the Empire.

No mention is made of administrative autonomy, and the above must be taken as a counter-proposal.

No. 616.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13, 10·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 13, 1876, 11 A.M.

I HAVE the honour to point out to your Lordship that the note by which the Porte, declaring its readiness to accept decisions of Powers upon the conditions of peace, agrees to an armistice, although of the same date as the note notifying the reforms, is of an earlier number in the series.

It is it, therefore, that should be considered as the answer to the proposal of the Powers.

No. 617.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 13, 1876.

GERMAN Government have urged acceptance of armistice on Servia.

No. 618.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I have to instruct you to ask the Italian Government what grounds they have for belief that it will be ruin to Servia and Montenegro to accept armistice, and urge upon them that the refusal of Italian Government may have disastrous consequences in showing divisions among the Powers, and encouraging the prosecution of the war by Servia, and the continuance of bloodshed with possible European complications. Her Majesty's Government trust, therefore, that on further consideration Italy will not withhold support to the action taken by England, Germany, Austria, and France.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 619.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876.

I HAD a conversation to-day with the Russian Ambassador on the subject of the acceptance or rejection by his Government of the armistice proposed by the Porte. His Excellency did not conceal from me his apprehension as to the view that might be taken at Livadia, and expressed himself anxious to do whatever was in his power to remove the objections which appeared to be entertained by his Government.

This conversation being entirely of a confidential and unofficial character, I do not

* Substance telegraphed, and repeated to Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.

repeat it; but I took the opportunity of impressing, in the strongest manner, on Count Schouvaloff the danger to European peace that would ensue if this armistice was rejected altogether, or if its acceptance were coupled with impossible conditions. I pointed out to his Excellency the change of opinion that had already manifested itself in England since the Russian project of an occupation of Bulgaria became known; and I warned him, that however strong might be the feeling of national indignation against Turkish cruelties, it would be superseded by a very different sentiment if it were once believed by the English nation that Constantinople was threatened. Rightly or wrongly, I said, the conclusion to which every one here would come would be, that the rejection by Russia of the Turkish proposal indicated a fixed purpose of going to war; and I entreated him to omit no effort to make his Government understand the light in which this resolution would be viewed by the English people.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 620.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876.

I HAVE requested Count Münster to press strongly on the German Government the importance of the acceptance by Russia of the armistice; and I have pointed out to him that the influence of Germany may be most useful at the present moment, when the Russian Government, by its hesitation and apparent disposition to refuse the armistice, is preparing serious complications, as the refusal could not fail to involve serious danger to the peace of Europe.

It is my wish that your Excellency should speak in the same sense to Herr von Bülow.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 621.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram from Count Andrassy stating that the Austrian Government have decided to accept the Turkish proposal of a five months' armistice, and to do all in their power to procure its acceptance by other States.

Count Andrassy adds that he will use his best efforts for this purpose at Belgrade, though Austrian influence is not predominant there; and that he will make similar representations to the Prince of Montenegro, who, he thinks, is likely to listen to the advice of Austria.

As regards the question of a Conference the Austrian Government state that they cannot determine their course without knowing what the programme of its deliberations is to be.

They think that the exclusion of a Turkish Representative would be contrary to the provisions of the Treaty of Paris of 1856. They hope therefore that the two questions of armistice and Conference will be kept separate, and that the armistice will be agreed to without being complicated by considerations as to the course or form of the subsequent negotiations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 622.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876.

I SHOULD wish your Excellency to communicate to Mr. Monson the substance of the information which has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constanti-

nople as to the proposal which has been made by the Porte of an armistice of six months, to date from the beginning of October; and you will instruct him to urge the Prince of Montenegro to throw no difficulties in the way of a prompt acceptance of the armistice as far as Montenegro is concerned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 623.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. White reporting the friendly co-operation which he had met with from his Italian colleague at Belgrade;* and I have to instruct you to take an opportunity of informing the Italian Government of this report, and expressing the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at this instance of the good relations between the English and Italian agents in Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 624.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October* 13, 1876, 6·45 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs asks me to say that he hopes your Lordship will insist on the armistice being for two months.

He believes this will be the only way to maintain the union of the Powers.

No. 625.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 14.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, October* 7, 1876.

TO questions respecting the passage of Russians through Hungary and Roumania, and also of contraband of war through the latter to Servia, M. Tisza yesterday replied in the House of Deputies that as regards Roumania he had no official knowledge, but that as regards Hungary he could state that the most part of the Russians did belong to the "Red Cross," whilst others had passports in due order; that Austria-Hungary being neutral could not take notice of breaches of neutrality in another State like Roumania, and that it was not usual or her duty to inquire in Servia whether the Russians of the "Red Cross" remained true to their description. But, his Excellency added, representations as to a misuse of the "Red Cross" here had been made at St. Petersburgh, and precautions against its recurrence had been taken by the Russian Government.

As regards the detention of the parties of Russians on the 27th and 28th of August last, the police authorities acted rightly in detaining for inquiry into their passports persons who acted contrary to the Police Regulations of the city, and their release was based upon the fact that their passports were all in due order, and that one State respects the passports of another State.

As regards the Proclamation of Prince Milan as King, his Excellency said that all the Powers, and even the Servian Cabinet and the Prince himself, had accepted for basis the *status quo ante*, which knew no king of Servia.

M. Tisza concluded by saying that "the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which, in the Eastern question, was fully supported by the Hungarian Cabinet, is striving to maintain peace for our fatherland, and to maintain it in such a manner that our interests shall not to-day be prejudiced nor future dangers arise; indeed so to keep the peace in conjunction with the European Powers as to secure for one thing a better lot to the people of Turkey, and as thus to establish confidence in the stableness of tranquillity."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

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* No. 556.

No. 626.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 13, 1876, 6·50 P.M.*

IT appeared at a meeting of the Representatives to-day that the German Ambassador and Russian Chargé d'Affaires in communicating to their Governments the acceptance of the armistice had represented the Porte as having accompanied it with certain conditions. We pointed out that wishes and hopes were expressed by the Porte, but no conditions of acceptance laid down. They said that this had escaped their observation, but they promised to telegraph to their Governments to correct the inaccuracy of their first reports.

No. 627.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 13, 1876, 7 P.M.*

MY colleagues who met at my house to-day decided that it might be well for us to suggest to our respective Governments that they should at once take steps for sending qualified officers with proper instructions for concerting the details of an armistice.

There are points which may require agreement between the Cabinets, but these need not necessarily be settled before the officers are despatched.

I should be glad to be informed, as soon as a decision is taken, whether it is proposed that a Military Commissioner should be sent by each of the mediating Powers to both of the Principalities.

No. 628.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 13, 1876, 8 P.M.*

MR. MONSON telegraphs that a Political Agent, instructed to advocate armistice, found the Prince this morning very reserved and averse to pledge himself, his principal objection being to the long duration which had been proposed.

His Highness seems to be worked upon by Russia and Servia against armistice.

The Austrian Agent has telegraphed for instructions, and Mr. Monson inquires what language he should employ.

No. 629.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 13, 1876, 10 P.M.*

I HAVE told Mr. Monson that I have forwarded his telegram respecting difficulty of inducing Prince Nicholas to accept the armistice, but that if Austrian Agent is instructed to advocate its acceptance, he may safely support him, as your Lordship has urged on the Russian and Austrian Governments the expediency of their inducing Servia to do so.

I have added that Prince Nicholas cannot advance his interests better than by complying with the wishes on the subject of Austria and England; and have informed him that I have learnt from you that the German Government have urged on Servia acceptance of armistice.

No. 630.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.

(Télégraphique.) *Livadia, le $\frac{2}{14}$ Octobre, 1876.*

NE croyons pas armistice de six mois nécessaire ou favorable à conclusion d'une paix durable que désirons. Ne saurions exercer pression sur Serbie et Monténégro pour les

faire consentir à incertitude aussi prolongée de leur situation difficile; enfin trouvons que position financière et commerciale de toute l'Europe déjà intolérable, souffrirait encore de ce délai. Devons insister sur armistice d'un mois à six semaines, proposition primitive de l'Angleterre, sauf à le prolonger si la marche des négociations en démontre la nécessité.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Livadia, October* $\frac{2}{14}$, 1876.

WE do not think an armistice of six months necessary or favourable to the conclusion of a lasting peace which we desire. We cannot put pressure on Servia and Montenegro to make them consent to such a prolonged uncertainty of the difficulties of their position; lastly, we hold that the financial and commercial position of the whole of Europe, already intolerable, would suffer still more by this delay.

We must insist on an armistice of from a month to six weeks, as originally proposed by England, with power to prolong it, if the progress of the negotiations renders this needful.

No. 631.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 14, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will state to Mr. Secretary Hardy that a telegraphic despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting that it may be necessary that foreign Military Delegates should be sent without loss of time to the Turkish, Servian, and Montenegrin armies to concert with the several Commanders the terms of the armistice proposed by the Porte.

Lord Derby has stated to the Representatives of Her Majesty at the Courts of the Powers that Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to send Military Delegates, and I am accordingly to suggest that Major-General Sir A. Kemball should be named to act at the Turkish, and Major Gonne at the Servian, head-quarters, and to inquire whether Mr. Hardy concurs in this arrangement, and will be good enough to inform Lord Derby of the officer whom he would recommend should be sent to Montenegro.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 632.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 14, 1876.

I LEARN from your Excellency's telegram of the 13th instant, that, having heard from Mr. Monson that he feared that it might be difficult to induce the Prince of Montenegro to accept the armistice, you had instructed him that he might safely support the Austrian Agent, if he should be instructed to urge its acceptance, and that he might tell the Prince that he could not better advance his interests than by complying with the wishes of England and Austria.

I approve your having given him these instructions; and you are now aware that I had, in anticipation of receiving a communication on the subject from Mr. Monson, requested you to direct him to take the initiative in urging the Prince to throw no difficulties in the way of a prompt acceptance of the armistice. As he evidently fears that such difficulties may be made, it will be well that you should again direct him to do all in his power to remove them, informing him at the same time that the armistice has been already accepted by Austria, Germany, and France.

I further authorize your Excellency to inform him, confidentially, that Italy is raising objections to the conclusion of an armistice for so long a period as that proposed by the Porte, and that Her Majesty's Government are using their best endeavours to remove these objections.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 633.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 14, 1876.

YOU are aware from the information which has been sent you by telegraph that Sir Henry Elliot has reported that it had been decided, at a meeting between himself and his colleagues, that it should be suggested to their respective Governments that steps should at once be taken for sending officers duly qualified and properly instructed, to concert the details of an armistice; and that he had requested to be informed, as soon as a decision should be taken, whether it was proposed that the mediating Powers should send a military Commission to both the Principalities.

It is desirable that your Excellency should know that, as far as Her Majesty's Government are concerned, the decision is already taken. They are ready to appoint at once officers to the Turkish and Servian armies, as well as to that of Montenegro.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 634.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received October 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 14, 1876, 3 P.M.

M. KARTZOFF, Russian Representative, says that he has not yet received instructions from the Emperor Alexander to recommend Prince Milan to accept the long armistice of six months as proposed by the Porte. No chance of acceptance without his efficient support.

No. 635.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.‡

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 14, 1876.

IN reply to your telegram of last night, Her Majesty's Government are unable to see any reason for reducing the armistice to two months, and have already joined the other Powers, as stated in telegram of yesterday, in accepting Turkish proposal. I have to instruct you to urge most strongly on the Italian Government not to separate their action from that of Austria and the other Powers who have also already assented. By doing so they will incur the gravest responsibility. You should also remind the Minister for Foreign Affairs of his previous assurances of desire to act with England, whose interests, like those of Italy, are in the preservation of European peace.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 636.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.§

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 14, 1876.

WITH reference to the instruction to Her Majesty's Representatives, repeated to you, respecting the proposal to appoint military delegates to arrange armistice, I have to instruct you to tell Italian Government what Her Majesty's Government have done on the suggestion of Sir H. Elliot and his colleagues, and express hope that they will join.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Odo Russell and Lord Loftus.

† Repeated to Embassies.

‡ Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.

§ Repeated to St. Petersburgh.

No. 637.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 14, 1876, 8 P.M.*

I HAVE urged on Imperial Government acceptance of armistice and importance of inducing Servia and Montenegro to do so.

Minister for Foreign Affairs says that Prince Gortchakow has not yet stated his decision. He considers that the difficulties are as follows : the exclusion of the insurgents; the prohibition to Principalities of receiving volunteers, arms, and ammunition, and of giving encouragement to insurgents.

I pointed out to him that these did not appear to be stated as conditions, but merely as hopes of the Porte.

The Russian press is strong against the armistice, and considers it unacceptable.

No. 638.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 14, 1876, 5·15 P.M.*

THE following is the answer which Minister for Foreign Affairs makes to your Lordship's request:—

"He is willing to follow the example of England, France, Germany, and Austria, but he desires to submit to the Powers his views concerning the complications which a six months' armistice would inevitably create, especially as regards the Principalities and the insurgent provinces. As proof that he is favourable in principle to an armistice, he has named the persons who should act for Italy in regulating its military details."

Italian Ambassador is instructed to communicate these views to your Lordship.

No. 639.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 14, 1876, 5·30 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the views of the Russian Government, stating that it considers six weeks or two months to be long enough for the armistice, and that it cannot use pressure to induce Servia and Montenegro to accept six months' armistice.

No. 640.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 14, 1876, 11 P.M.*

MORSON telegraphs that he has communicated to Prince Nicholas substance of Sir H. Elliot's telegram of the 12th instant, and has urged His Highness to accept the armistice.

He is sending by post report of his interview.

No. 641.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 15, 1876, noon.*

ITALIAN Government has named the Italian Military Attaché at Vienna to act in concert with Russians in arrangement of details of the armistice, and Signor Durando is to give his assistance to Montenegro.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 642.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 15, 1876, 1 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Government has sent to their Chargé d'Affaires here a Circular telegram forwarded to their Representatives saying they must "insist" upon the armistice being for only one month or six weeks, the term to be prolonged if the progress of the negotiations shows a necessity for it.

No. 643.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 15, 1876, 4·15 P.M.*

COUNT ANDRASSY has just told me himself that he maintains his acceptance of the proposal for the six months, which he has supported at Belgrade and Cettigné, leaving the wishes of the Porte as to the other points to be discussed hereafter; but he said he has not been able to ascertain from Berlin whether the German Government had accepted.

I answered that it appeared from your Lordship's telegrams that Her Majesty's Government consider Russia and Italy to be the only Powers who have not yet done so.

No. 644.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 15, 1876, 7 P.M.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs will telegraph in the following sense to Belgrade and Montenegro:—

"At the request of England the other Powers appearing disposed to accept the counter-proposals of the Porte, notwithstanding the contrary opinion of Russia, you will advise the Government not to impede the benevolent intentions of Europe by an absolute refusal."

The Minister read to me a telegram from the Italian Ambassador at Berlin dated yesterday 4 P.M., stating that the German Government, like the Italian Government, withheld its final decision concerning the proposed armistice.

No. 645.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 29, 1876.*

AT an interview I had to-day with M. de Giers, I mentioned to his Excellency that I had received information that M. de Jonine, the Russian Consul-General at Ragusa, who had apparently taken up his residence at the head-quarters of the Prince of Montenegro, had used his influence to dissuade His Highness from agreeing to the prolongation of the armistice which had been strongly urged upon him by the Austrian and French Consuls.

I observed to his Excellency that when all the Powers, Russia included, were doing their utmost to bring about an armistice, and a cessation of the effusion of blood, it was strange to find a Russian Agent acting in direct contradiction to those endeavours.

M. de Giers contested the fact of M. de Jonine having acted in the sense I had indicated, and his Excellency read to me a telegram which he had received from him on the previous evening, which was dated the 27th instant.

In that telegram M. Jonine states that Prince Nicolas had ordered a suspension of hostilities, but without fixing any term, as he could not do so without previous communication with the Prince of Servia.

He stated that the Prince of Montenegro was willing to conclude a formal armistice, but that he considered a mere suspension of hostilities as disadvantageous to his interests. It prevented him from forcing Moukhtar Pasha, who occupied a position on Montenegrin

territory, to retire, which the Prince felt he was capable of doing, although the Pasha had profited of the suspension of hostilities to fortify his position.

M. de Jonine further reported, that on the request of the Grand Vizier, through Count Andrassy, the Prince of Montenegro, during the suspension of hostilities, had daily provisioned the fort of Medun, and that the Russian ambulance had likewise provided it with medical requirements.

M. de Giers spoke in terms of praise of the Prince of Montenegro, and said that he was anxious to act with moderation and humanity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 646.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 1, 1876.

CABOULY PASHA, the Turkish Ambassador, called on me yesterday, and I strongly advised him to warn his Government of the danger of their declining the conditions of peace which Sir H. Elliot had submitted to the Porte, and which had been supported by all the Great Powers, and to notify to them his fears that grave measures would result from their rejection.

As the decision of the Council would probably not take place before Sunday, there would still be time for the Porte to receive his communication before the decisive answer was given to the Ambassadors.

His Excellency stated that he would telegraph immediately to the Porte in the sense I had mentioned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 647.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 6, 1876.

I CALLED at the Foreign Office to-day, and, in conformity with your Lordship's instructions, I informed M. de Giers that Her Majesty's Government considered that the armistice which had been proposed by the Imperial Government should be immediately followed by a Conference.

M. de Giers had not yet received from Livadia information of the telegram which had been addressed to Count Schouvaloff, proposing an armistice of six weeks, and my communication to him was the first intimation he had received on the subject.

M. de Giers informed me that the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires had communicated to him confidentially a telegram from Count Andrassy, stating that the Austro-Hungarian Government had declined the Russian proposal to Austria to occupy Bosnia, and that they were disposed to participate in the naval demonstration.

I inquired from M. de Giers whether, in this communication, Count Andrassy had made any allusion to the proposed Russian occupation of Bulgaria, either in the way of approval or disapproval.

M. de Giers replied that no reference of any kind was made to the Russian occupation of Bulgaria, and he could not therefore say what was the opinion of Count Andrassy in regard to it.

It appears to me of some importance to ascertain whether, in declining the Russian proposal as regarded Bosnia, Count Andrassy meant his rejection of the Russian proposal to apply equally to the proposed Russian occupation of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 648.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the précis of an article from the "Moscow Gazette" in translation by Mr. J. Michell, asserting (in contradiction to a statement in Mr. Baring's Report), that there was no general insurrection in Bulgaria, but merely disconnected movements, and that there is no proof that even those isolated and insignificant attempts at open rebellion were instigated by foreigners.

In support of this statement the "Moscow Gazette" cites the evidence of Mr. Schuyler and Prince Tzereteleff.

No more striking evidence can be given of the instigation to insurrection by foreign emissaries than the letter of General Tchernaieff, written to the "Russki Mir," of which I inclosed a copy in translation in my despatch of the 20th June.

I also annex an article from the "St. Petersburgh News" mentioning the activity of the Sestroretsk Small Arms Factory, which is at work day and night, and turns out 300 rifles daily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 648.

Précis of Article in the "Moscow Gazette" of September $\frac{18}{30}$, 1876.

THE "Moscow Gazette" of the $\frac{18}{30}$th September, 1876, contains a review of the reports of Messrs. Baring and Schuyler, and with reference to the statement made by the former that there was a rising in Bulgaria and that it was planned by foreign agitators, emphatically asserts that there was no general insurrection but only disconnected movements here and there, and that there is no proof that even these isolated and insignificant attempts at open rebellion were instigated by any foreigners. In support of this, the Gazette adduces the evidence of Mr. Schuyler and Prince Tzereteleff.

Inclosure 2 in No. 648.

Précis of Article in the "St. Petersburgh News."

THE "St. Petersburgh News" is informed that the activity of the Sestroretsk Small Arms Factory, near St. Petersburgh, has lately considerably increased. The work is carried on both by day and night and 300 rifles are turned out complete every 24 hours.

No. 649.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 4, 1876.

PRINCE NICHOLAS returned on the night of the 2nd instant, and was pleased to grant me an audience at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of yesterday.

In accordance with the suggestion which I made in my telegram of the 25th ultimo, I told His Highness that I was happy to believe that my presence in Montenegro would be accepted by him as a proof that Her Majesty's Government was animated by friendly feelings towards the Principality; and I trusted that I might be so fortunate as to be able to contribute, even in some very slight degree, to the re-establishment of peace. I stated that Her Majesty's Government had proposed to the Porte the *status quo* as regards Montenegro as one of the bases of negotiation; that my mission was to urge upon His Highness the expediency of concluding the war now, when by the goodwill of the Powers he might obtain better terms than he could hope to conquer by force; and I begged him to put it in my power to lay before Her Majesty's Government his views and wishes, promising him that I would take every care to represent faithfully whatever he might be pleased to communicate to me.

The Prince expressed great gratification at my arrival. He was aware, he said, that

England had commanding influence at Constantinople; and he would be as frank as possible in the enunciation of his views. He wished Her Majesty's Government to know them thoroughly, and would that evening, with the map between us, go over with me the territorial changes which he desired. Meantime he wished to dissipate the idea, which he believed was current in England, that he was nothing but a "Lieutenant of the Czar." He respected and esteemed the Emperor Alexander; he was grateful to His Imperial Majesty for a long series of kindnesses, but he owed him no allegiance, "and," said His Highness, "I am, and I mean to be, as much master in my house as the Czar is in his." He was desirous also that England should be undeceived as to the character of the Montenegrins, and should understand that they were not the race of "cruel, barbarous brigands," which he feared they had been represented to be. I should see for myself what they were—"bons enfants," patriotic and brave, but not naturally cruel, though they have, he admitted, certain faults, for which surrounding circumstances were more responsible than their own temperament. His Highness spoke with emotion of their bravery, self-abnegation, endurance, and attachment and devotion to himself. "Give us the chance," he went on, "and we will show that we can live on as good terms with the Turks as we do with the Austrians. I wish to be a good neighbour to the Sultan. It rests with him whether I shall be so; but an entire change of system in treating us is necessary for that result."

His Highness then touched upon the present position of affairs, and said that he had no intention of attacking the Turks if he were let alone. His people had done enough, and although only 560 Montenegrins had died on the field of battle, sufficient blood had been spilt, and he prayed that he might not be called upon to sacrifice more of his people. He was satisfied with his military position, and did not fear a disaster if the war continued, but it would be painful to him to have to consent to further loss of life. He spoke very bitterly of Servia, of the foreign influences at work there, and of the persistent continuance of hostilities in the Morava Valley.

After more than half-an-hour's conversation, the Prince terminated the interview by inviting me to dinner in the evening. His manner had been most cordial, and most unaffectedly natural. I own that it made a great impression upon me, and that I begin to understand the passionate devotion which his people have for him. I cannot refrain from laying stress upon this point, because I think it essential that Her Majesty's Government should know the manner of man with whom they have to deal in Montenegro, and should be fully assured that the Prince is, as he says, "the master of his own house;" that a word from him will, in spite of foreign intrigue, induce his people to consent to peace, and that the utterance of that word depends upon his being able to rely upon fair and equitable treatment from the Porte in return for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 650.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 4, 1876.

HAVING no opportunity of doing so last night, Prince Nicholas was so good as to show me this morning on the map the rectifications of frontier which he desires.

They are very much the same as I have recently reported to your Lordship, and are roughly as follows: the district of Nichsich, and that of Spuz, which resemble two weapons planted north and south in Montenegrin territory; those districts on the northern frontier the inhabitants of which owe nominal allegiance to the Porte, but are really subjects of Montenegro, applying to the Prince in all their contentions, and accepting his decisions as legal—such districts, namely, as the Banjani, Kolaschin, and the Sutorina,—the Kuci tribe on the south-east, who have made common cause with Montenegro, should also become his subjects; the plain lying west of the Moratcha as far as the debouchure of the river into Lake Scutari, and the Suturman district with the harbour of Spitza, are the chief accessions which His Highness desires on the east and south.

Altogether the number of his subjects would be increased by some five or six thousand, nearly all of whom profess the Orthodox faith, and many of whom have long been practically independent of the Porte.

The Prince spoke very earnestly to me about the port of Spitza. He said that, if England would procure him that concession, Montenegro would be eternally grateful. He wanted free access to the sea, that he might be able to import foreign goods direct, instead of through Austria or Turkey. He had metalliferous mountains which he wanted to work;

rich ores of manganese and antimony, of which at present no advantage can be taken. He wanted liberty of communication with the outer world.

The commerce of the Principality could never be great, but surely England would encourage his efforts in this direction.

As for Spitza becoming a Russian port, let any one look at the map and be convinced that such a mite of a place could never become dangerous in that way.

Austria would of course be indisposed to help him to a seaport, preferring that he should be dependant upon Cattaro, and might propose, instead of Spitza, the free navigation of the Scutari Lake and the River Bojana; but in the first place the Bojana was not yet really navigable, and would require expensive works to make it so, which the Turks might never undertake; and in the second place he would be dependent on the caprice of the Pasha at Scutari, and he had experience enough to know what a mockery the concession of free navigation would be, when a Turkish official had always the power to stop it.

I daresay that the Prince hardly expects to get all that he asks; but if the Sultan could be induced to look upon these cessions as an act of generosity to a petty Principality, if the Porte would surrender some of the ninety-seven (!) fortified places by which she has hemmed in Montenegro (many of these being planted within easy gunshot of Montenegrin soil), and would recognise that these forts have been, not only an expense, but a weakness, useful neither for offensive nor for defensive purposes, and acting simply as an irritant to the mountaineers; if, in fact, Turkey would make the experiment of conciliation, it seems to me that she could lose but little of value, and would probably gain much in the present friendship of Montenegro and the future tranquillity of the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 651.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 5, 1876.

PRINCE NICHOLAS is very anxious to show, by every means in his power, that he knows how to carry on the war with courtesy towards the enemy.

The Grand Vizier having requested permission to send provisions into Medun during the late truce, His Highness replied that he would do that himself, on condition that he might be allowed to verify the number of the garrison, although he knew that the fortress was reduced to such straits that it must soon surrender from famine.

Again, Osman Pasha, who was taken prisoner at Vrbitza, having told Mr. Stillman that his health was affected by the monotony of his life at Cettigné, the Prince at once acceded to Mr. Stillman's proposition that he should allow the Pasha three weeks absence to go to Ragusa for change of air; and the Pasha is there now, having been supplied by the Prince with a sum of money far more than enough to pay his expenses handsomely.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 652.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 6, 1876.

COLONEL THÖMMEL received in the course of last night two telegrams from Count Andrassy respecting the desire of the Porte for a continuance of the truce; and was in conference with the Prince for some hours.

His Highness at first agreed to send provisions every three days into Medun; and despatched a courier at once with orders to supply the first instalment to-day. Early this morning, however, he received a report that the troops were discontented at his previous generosity; and in particular the Kutchi, in whose district Medun is situated, protested that their alliance and services merited such a recognition as the capture of the fortress. The Prince thereupon decided that he would do no more than provision the fort till the 8th instant, and after that it must take its chance. He also requested Colonel Thömmel

to explain to Count Andrassy that he was being hard pressed by many of his chiefs to resume the offensive against Moukhtar Pasha; and that therefore he earnestly begged the Great Powers to bring about a definite armistice at once.

Colonel Thömmel came to me upon leaving the Prince, and I agreed to telegraph to your Lordship in the same sense as he was going to do to Count Andrassy. M. Ceccaldi will address a similar telegram to the Duc Decazes.

The Prince has given provisional orders to his chiefs to remain on the defensive.

Moukhtar Pasha has been reinforced by six hundred Arnauts, five guns, and the greater part of the garrison at Trebigné. Five Montenegrin battalions have crossed the Tscherbinitza, and threaten his communications in the rear.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 653.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October 6, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the two accompanying copies of telegrams addressed by General Chernayeff to the Servian Government on the subject of the mutilation of Servian wounded by Turkish troops, which I am about to report to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 653.

Report of General Chernayeff to M. Ristitch.

Déligrade, le 3 Octobre, 1876.

VOUS ayant communiqué, dans le courant du mois dernier, que les prisonniers qu'il est arrivé à l'ennemi de faire et les blessés qui tombent entre ses mains sont condamnés aux plus atroces supplices avant d'être mis à mort, je crois devoir vous informer que le 20 Septembre au soir nos troupes, après avoir repris à l'ennemi une position abandonnée la veille, trouvèrent des corps de nos prisonniers blessés dans un état tel que l'esprit humain se réfuse à la croire possible. Les malheureux se trouvaient attachés à la terre par des chevilles de bois, les mains étendues, les pieds et d'autres parties du corps calcinés, les doigts de pied coupés, le bas-ventre mutilé au couteau, la figure contractée par les souffrances. La présence de cadavres des soldats nizams prouve que ces atrocités sont l'œuvre de troupes régulières.

La vérité de ce fait hideux est attestée par la parole d'honneur d'officiers, du Colonel de Preradovitch, du Capitaine Tikchanoff et d'autres témoins. Je vous prie de bien vouloir faire constater ce fait par des personnes qui jouissent de toute confiance de MM. les Agents Diplomatiques en Serbie. Nos troupes irréprochables jusqu'ici sont tellement outrées des cruautés de l'ennemi que je crains à l'avenir de ne pas pouvoir les empêcher de commettre par droit de représailles les mêmes cruautés.

(Translation.)

Deligrad, October 3, 1876.

AS I communicated to you, in the course of last month, that those who had been taken prisoners by the enemy, and the wounded who fall into their hands, were subjected to the most horrible tortures before being put to death, I think it my duty to inform you that on the evening of September 20, our troops, having retaken a position which had been abandoned the previous evening, found the bodies of our wounded prisoners in a state that the human mind refuses to believe possible. The unfortunates were found fastened to the ground by wooden pegs, their hands spread out, their feet and other parts of the body charred, their toes cut off, their stomachs mutilated by knife cuts, their countenances contracted by pain. The presence of corpses of the Nizams prove that these atrocities are the work of regular troops.

The truth of these dreadful facts is attested by the word of honour of officers, of Colonel Preradovitch, Captain Tikchanoff, and other witnesses. I beg that you will kindly have this fact verified by persons enjoying the entire confidence of the

Diplomatic Agents in Servia. Our troops, who up to this time have behaved irreproachably, are so exasperated by the cruelty of the enemy, that I fear in future it will not be possible to prevent them committing the same cruelties by way of reprisals.

Inclosure 2 in No. 653.

Report of General Chernayeff to M. Ristitch.

Déligrade, le 4 *Octobre,* 1876.

DANS ma dépêche d'hier je vous ai informé des cruautés que les Turcs commettent sur ceux de nos blessés qu'ils font prisonniers. Aujourd'hui j'ai reçu un rapport du Lieutenant-Colonel Popovitch, Commandant de la position d'Alexinatz, dans lequel il me fait part qu'on a trouvé devant cette position sur la rive gauche de la Morava, à proximité du village de Bonimir des blessés Serbes cloués à la terre, mutilés, avec les membres coupés et brûlés.

Je m'empresse de vous en informer comme un exemple de plus de la barbarie Turque.

(Translation.)

Deligrad, October 4, 1876.

I INFORMED you yesterday in my despatch of the cruelties the Turks commit on the wounded whom they take prisoners. To-day I have received a report from Lieutenant-Colonel Popovitch, commanding the position of Alexinatz, in which he acquaints me with the discovery in front of that position on the left bank of the Morava, near the village of Bonimir, of wounded Servians nailed to the ground, mutilated, with their limbs cut off and burnt.

I hasten to inform you of this as a further example of Turkish barbarity.

No. 654.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

My Lord, *Berlin, October* 13, 1876.

I COMMUNICATED your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant to Herr von Bülow respecting the importance of inducing Servia to accept the armistice, and his Excellency told me in reply that instructions had already been sent to the German Consul-General, Count Bray, to speak in the same sense as Her Majesty's Consul-General, Mr. White, to the Servian Government.

His Excellency said that the conditions of the armistice were not yet known, but that there was reason to fear that the proposed period of its duration might be objected to at Vienna and in Russia. The German Government had no wish to raise objections or to add to existing difficulties, and would, therefore, reserve their opinion until they were in possession of the views of the Guaranteeing Powers.

Regarding the proposed Conference, his Excellency said that Prince Bismarck agreed with your Lordship in thinking that it should not be entered into before its object had been clearly defined and accepted by the parties concerned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 655.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

My Lord, *Vienna, October* 12, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive yesterday evening two telegrams from your Lordship, one of which stated that Servia had declared her readiness to accept an armistice if offered in a regular form, and the other instructing me to urge on Count Andrassy the importance of the Servian Government being induced to accept the armistice now offered by the Porte.

In order, therefore, to carry out your Lordship's wishes with the least possible delay, I addressed to his Excellency the letter, of which the inclosure is a copy, stating that your Lordship's reports from Belgrade having given reason to fear that the Servian Government

may raise difficulties as to the form in which the armistice will be offered to them, you had instructed me to urge upon him the importance of their being induced to accept the armistice in the terms in which it will be proposed by the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 655.

Sir A. Buchanan to Count Andrassy.

Dear Count Andrassy, *Vienna, October* 11, 1876.

I HAVE just received a telegram from Lord Derby, stating that his reports from Belgrade give reason to fear that the Servian Government may raise difficulties as to the form in which the armistice will be offered to them by the Porte, and that he has therefore pressed upon Count Beust and upon Count Schouvaloff the urgency of Servia accepting the armistice in the terms in which it will be proposed to her; and he has also instructed me to urge upon your Excellency the importance which he attaches to her doing so.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN

No. 656.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

My Lord, *Rome, October* 12, 1876.

IN obedience to your Lordship's telegraphic instructions I said to-day to Signor Melegari that it was important that the Italian Government should urge Servia to accept the armistice now offered by the Porte.

His Excellency replied that he had done his best to induce Servia to accept the armistice as it had been proposed by England, in case the Porte agreed to it; but that the Porte, instead of consenting to that proposal, had again rejoined by a counter-proposition, which appeared to him to change the aspect of affairs. He conceived that an armistice of five months would be only favourable to Turkey, and that it would be the ruin of Servia and Montenegro. How were these two States to maintain themselves prepared for war during the whole winter? He could not help feeling that, in proposing an armistice of five months, the Porte was laughing at us, and unless a further acquaintance with its terms modified his opinion, he could certainly not counsel Servia to accept it. He said this, however, with the reserve that Italy had no intention of pursuing an isolated policy, and that if the other Powers did not take his view of the matter, he should be willing to waive his opinion for the sake of united action.

I asked his Excellency whether the views which he had expressed were shared by Russia, and he replied that he was unacquainted with the views of Russia upon the subject. I said they were certainly not those of Her Majesty's Government, for he could not suppose that your Lordship would desire Servia to submit to an armistice which did not possess the elements of equality for the belligerents. I added that Sir Henry Elliot had mentioned in a telegram, which had been communicated to me, that he thought that the Guaranteeing Powers would be invited to make all the arrangements for the execution of the armistice. His Excellency replied that if this were so, it would certainly materially improve the aspect of the communication of the Porte, but he must wait and see what this communication actually was before sending advice to Servia on the subject. I urged, that after we had striven in an united manner to obtain the armistice it would be a singular thing to reject it because the term of it was longer than we expected, and that I could not help feeling that the beginning of the armistice was the important point; that we might fairly hope that its conclusion would not be followed by a renewal of the war; and that certainly at the expiration of five months we might be sure that it would be impossible for the simple struggle between Servia and the Porte to recommence, that therefore Servia might enter upon such an armistice with the assurance of its either leading to a peace or to a war on a different footing, for public opinion would not permit Turkey to resume the offensive in the spring after a winter of fruitless negotiation. That, therefore, if we accepted the armistice now proposed, we might hope for the continued union of the Powers at its close; but that if some Powers now rejected it, we should at once find ourselves in the face of a disagreement which would strengthen the resistance of the Porte.

His Excellency said, however, that he could do nothing until he knew exactly what Turkey proposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 657.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 15, 1876, 9·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING telegram is from Monson:—

"I am informed that the war (party) is straining every nerve to persuade Prince Nicholas to reject armistice, and I am fearful that he is already much less pacific.

"Austrian Agent has received no instructions in answer to telegram to the Minister for Foreign Affairs."

No. 658.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 15, 1876, 10·15 P.M.*

I HAVE informed Mr. Monson confidentially that Minister for Foreign Affairs has stated to me to-day, for your Lordship's information, that he still intends to accept the armistice as proposed by the Porte, and has instructed his Agents at Belgrade and Cettigné to support it.

I have stated that, in my opinion, it would be a great mistake on Prince Nicholas' part were he to become a party to a Servian attempt to thwart the policy which Great Britain and Austria had adopted.

No. 659.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 16, 1876, 2 P.M.*

I WROTE last night to Count Andrassy, acquainting him with the intention of the Italian Government to follow the example of England and Austria, &c. I have also seen him to-day, when he said that he told the Russian Ambassador yesterday that he could see no reason for Austria declining the Turkish proposal, and that so far from its being prejudicial, the commercial classes here are most anxious that it should be accepted. I prepared him for a statement of the reasons of the Italian Government for considering a long armistice likely to cause complications in the Principalities, and he said that they could not influence his decision. He is not, however, confident as to the effect which Russian opposition may have at Berlin. I therefore repeated to him that your Lordship considered Germany had given her support to the Turkish proposal.

Instructions were sent yesterday to Belgrade and Montenegro urging the acceptance of the armistice by the Princes.

No. 660.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 16, 1876.*

I HAVE to instruct you to express the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the attention paid to their representations. They trust the Italian Government will continue to urge upon Servia and Montenegro not to oppose proposals made in the interest of peace.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 661.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received October* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 16, 1876, 3 P.M.

THE Emperor Alexander has telegraphed to Russian Consul that he is not to take any steps here respecting the armistice until Porte agrees to original proposal of one for six weeks.

I and my colleagues agree that under the circumstances an attempt to recommend acceptance by Prince Milan would be perfectly useless, and that the Agent doing so would only weaken his influence and place himself at a disadvantage.

I propose, therefore, to preserve great reserve, and to abstain from isolated action.

No. 662.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to you copies of two despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, informing him of the protests which have been made to me by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires against the practice of the Porte of sending Circassian colonists into Thessaly, and asking for the assistance of Her Majesty's Government in remonstrating with the Turkish Government.†

You will inform the Greek Government that Her Majesty's Government have been using their good offices at Constantinople for some time past in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 663.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 29th ultimo, and I approve the note which you addressed to Safvet Pasha on the 28th ultimo, with a view to induce the Porte to accept the peace proposals of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 664.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 30th ultimo, Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to the Grand Vizier respecting the inexpediency of the Porte referring to the Grand Council the proposals for peace of Her Majesty's Government instead of allowing a decision to be given by the Sultan's Ministers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 665.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 2nd instant, Her Majesty's Government approve the remonstrance which you made to the Porte upon the dilatoriness

* Repeated to Embassies. † Nos. 440 and 514.

shown by them in providing for the safety of the people in Bulgaria and in punishing those who have been the causes of the present suffering.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 666.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

I APPROVE the note which your Excellency addressed to the Porte on the 27th ultimo, urging acceptance of the peace proposals of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of which is inclosed in your despatch of the 28th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 667.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me two despatches from his Government explaining their position and views with regard to the proposal made by the Porte for an armistice of five months' duration.

The Italian Government state that they have not yet taken a decision in regard to this proposal, because at first sight it seems to them that the answer of the Porte does not fully meet the requirements of the Powers. Six weeks or two months ought, in their opinion, to suffice for arriving at a settlement of all the leading points in dispute, and they think that the Porte should be required to make an arrangement within that time which should admit of the signature of a definitive peace. Otherwise the Italian Government cannot help feeling that there will be great danger of fresh difficulties arising during the course of so long an armistice, while peace still remains uncertain.

Italy, it is said, would willingly take any step that is likely to lead to peace, but as Russia objects to the proposal under consideration, and Germany hesitates to give her consent, Signor Melegari thinks that the acceptance of it by other Powers would only lead to further complications.

Signor Melegari believes that the best arrangement to avoid the present difficulty would be a compromise between the Russian proposal and that of Turkey. If the other Powers were to support Turkey without attempting such a compromise, they would, in fact, be driving Russia to revert to the plan she had already advocated of a military occupation of Turkish territory.

The Italian Government, by way of showing their desire for peace, had already designated Commissioners to assist in fixing the conditions of the armistice, and they had also telegraphed to the Italian Agent at Belgrade stating that, as other Powers appeared disposed to accept the counter-proposals of Turkey, notwithstanding the contrary opinion of Russia, he was to advise the Servian Government not to impede the benevolent intentions of Europe by an absolute refusal.

General Menabrea added that he was instructed to deny in the most solemn manner that Italy had any desire for war, or for fresh territorial acquisitions. What she desired was peace, and the opportunity of restoring her finances.

His Excellency asked whether I could hold out no hope of a compromise.

I said that it was as yet too early to decide what course could be taken. We must wait to see on what grounds the Russian Government based their objections to the Turkish proposal.

But I could not conceal from him that the aspect of affairs seemed to me extremely unsatisfactory. We had had great trouble in inducing the Porte to grant an armistice for a fixed term, as now proposed, and there was something very suspicious in the manner in which fresh difficulties were created at each turn of the negotiations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 668.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to me a telegram from Prince Gortchakow dated Livadia, October 14, of which the following is a translation :—

"We do not think an armistice of six months necessary or favourable to the conclusion of a durable peace which we desire. We cannot exercise pressure on Servia or Montenegro to make them consent to the uncertainty of their difficult situation being so prolonged; lastly we consider that the financial and commercial position of all Europe already intolerable would suffer still more from this delay. We must insist ('devons insister') on an armistice of a month or six weeks, the original proposal of England, subject to its being prolonged if the progress of negotiations shows it to be necessary."

I told Count Schouvaloff that I had received this communication with regret, and I pointed out to his Excellency that the proposal of Her Majesty's Government was for an armistice of "not less than a month."

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 669.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government having experienced much inconvenience from being without direct means of communication with Prince Gortchakow through Her Majesty's Embassy, I have to inform your Excellency that they consider it desirable that you should yourself proceed to Livadia, should you be able to manage this.

You will accordingly inform me whether your journey thither can be arranged, and whether your presence would be agreeable to His Imperial Majesty.

In the event of your proceeding to Livadia, I authorize you to take with you a second Secretary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 670.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

THERE seems to have existed, and still to exist, a certain confusion of ideas as to the threatened withdrawal of Sir Henry Elliot under certain contingencies, which it is desirable to remove. I think, therefore, that it may be well to explain that no rupture of relations with the Porte was ever contemplated. It was thought to be advisable that, if the Porte should definitively refuse both the terms of peace and the armistice, the Ambassador should leave Constantinople for a time, but the Embassy would have remained under the direction of the First Secretary. The object of the withdrawal of the Ambassador would have been to show displeasure on the part of England, but there would have been no diplomatic rupture. I should wish your Excellency to take an opportunity of speaking in this sense to Herr von Bülow, in order to remove any misapprehension on the part of the German Government as to the intentions of Her Majesty's Government in taking this step.

It is the earnest wish of Her Majesty's Government to act, during the negotiations, in concert with the German Government, which could, in the present situation of affairs, if it would exert its influence to procure the acceptance by Russia of the armistice, do much in the interest of peace. The acceptance of the armistice would be the first step in the direction of a permanent pacification, and the next step would, in our opinion, be the assembly of a Conference.

I gather that Prince Bismarck does not appear to entertain favourably the idea of a Conference.

No. 671.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to communicate to Prince Bismarck the language which I used to Count Schouvaloff in my interview with him of the 14th instant, recorded in my despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, copy of which was inclosed to you in my despatch of that date.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 672.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

IT appears from your Excellency's telegram of the 14th instant that Baron Orczy had expressed some doubts as to whether Count Andrassy would, in the face of the opposition of Russia, persist in his acceptance of the armistice for six months proposed by the Porte. It seems, further, that he said that Count Andrassy had not expressed any opinion as to the duration of the armistice; and that he informed you that Count Beust had been merely instructed to express in general terms a favourable opinion of the Turkish proposal and the reasons by which it was supported, as Count Andrassy was waiting to know the decision of Her Majesty's Government before taking his own decision as to the entire acceptance of the proposal.

As Baron Orczy's language, as reported by your Excellency, seems to show that some doubt existed in the mind of Count Andrassy as to the decision of Her Majesty's Government, I have directed you to-day, by telegraph, to inform Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government at once accepted the Turkish proposal for an armistice of five months, and expressed the hope that it would be generally accepted by the other Powers.

As regards the views of the Austro-Hungarian Government, you will have learnt from my despatch of the 13th instant, that Count Beust, on that day, read to me a telegram from Count Andrassy, stating that Austria-Hungary accepted the Turkish proposal of a five months' armistice and would do all in its power to procure its acceptance by other States, as well as by Servia and Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 673.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 4, 1876.

I HAVE often of late expressed to your Lordship the anxiety that I felt respecting the effect which might be produced by the manner in which the expulsion of the Turks from Europe or the creation of Bulgarian autonomy has been spoken of in England.

The following extract of a private letter from a gentleman settled in Bulgaria, who for the last eight or ten years has been carrying on extensive farming operations, will show your Lordship what the feeling on the subject is of the persons most interested in it.

The letter is addressed to the writer's brother, and speaks of the acts of violence committed by the Circassians, but it adds: "Luckily the Turks have not got wind of Gortchakow's and Gladstone's idea of Bulgarian autonomy, otherwise I do not suppose I should be here to tell you this.

"The Bulgarians would be the first to deprecate such a step at the present moment, which would have the effect of clearing them at least out of the country.

"If you happen to know there will be anything approaching to a Bulgarian autonomy, just let me be informed of it by telegraph, because I would infinitely prefer to be out of the way when the question is to be decided."

The writer does not, I am convinced, exaggerate the danger which may be at hand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 674.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 4, 1876.

WITH reference to Mr. Baring's report upon the atrocities committed in Bulgaria, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a letter from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy which bears upon the origin of the rising in that province.

I have, &c.
(Signee) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 674.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.)

I SEE Mr. Baring mentions the outbreak at Eski Zaghra last year as a "slight disturbance." The fact is that last October everything was settled for a "rising" in Bulgaria, in eight or ten places simultaneously. Something occurred which made it advisable that the rising should be put off, and messengers were sent to all the centres, but the put-off for Eski Zaghra arrived twenty-four hours late, and that town rose in the full conviction that it was being seconded by all the force of the insurgents. In fact, the *émeute*, revolt, rebellion, revolution, or whatever it was, of May last, was to have come off in October 1875, but did not.

I do not suppose the Turks managed to get this piece of information out of the prisoners then arrested: if they had, they ought to have prevented the affairs of May last. I only knew it in May, and besides, it is out of my Consular district.

No. 675.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 5*, 1876.

I WAS received this morning at the Palace of Dolmabaghtche by the Sultan, and had the honour to deliver into His Majesty's hand the Queen's letter accrediting me as Her Ambassador.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the words which I addressed to His Majesty on this occasion, and also of His Majesty's gracious reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 675.

Sir H. Elliot's Address to His Majesty the Sultan.

Sire,

J'AI l'honneur de remettre entre les mains de votre Majesté Impériale la lettre par laquelle la Reine, ma très-gracieuse Souveraine, m'accrédite auprès de votre Majesté en qualité de son Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire.

En exprimant de la part de la Reine ses félicitations à votre Majesté sur son avénement au Trône qu'elle est appelée à occuper, j'ose émettre l'espoir que sous la direction éclairée de votre Majesté les anciens liens d'amitié et de sympathie qui ont toujours existé entre les deux nations, se resserreront encore davantage.

En usant de tous mes efforts pour maintenir ces liens, je remplirai le mieux les fonctions qui m'ont été confiées par ma très-gracieuse Souveraine.

(Translation.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour of giving into the hands of Your Imperial Majesty, the letter by which the Queen, my most gracious Sovereign, gives me letters of credence to Your Majesty, as her Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

In expressing on behalf of the Queen her congratulations to your Majesty on your

succession to the throne which you are called upon to occupy, I venture to express the hope that under the enlightened direction of your Majesty, the old bonds of friendship and sympathy which have always existed between the two nations, will be drawn yet closer.

In doing my utmost to maintain these bonds, I shall be carrying out to the best of my power the duties that have been confided to me by my most gracious Sovereign.

Inclosure 2 in No. 675.

Reply of His Majesty the Sultan to Sir H. Elliot's Address.

(Traduction.)

JE suis très sensible aux félicitations que M. l'Ambassadeur vient de m'exprimer au nom de Sa Majesté la Reine, à l'occasion de mon avénement au Trône. J'attache un grand prix à l'amitié du Gouvernement Britannique, et à la sympathie du peuple Anglais; de même que le Gouvernement Anglais avait donné de nombreuses preuves de son amitié envers la Turquie du temps de mon glorieux père à une époque de difficulté extrême, j'espère fermement que cette amitié ne me fera pas défaut pendant mon règne. Mon unique but est de voir resserrer de plus en plus les liens d'amitié intime qui existent entre les deux pays.

Je connais, M. l'Ambassadeur, vos sentiments personnels d'amitié pour la Turquie, et je suis heureux de vous voir confirmé dans votre poste.

(Translation.)

I AM very sensible of the congratulations which the Ambassador has just expressed in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, on the occasion of my coming to the throne. I attach great value to the friendship of the British Government, and to the sympathy of the English people. In the same way that the British Government gave numberless proofs of its friendship towards Turkey in the time of my illustrious father during a period of extreme difficulty, so I hope firmly that this friendship will not fail me during my reign. My sole object is to see the bonds of friendship which exist between the two countries drawn closer and closer.

I know, Sir, your own sentiments of friendship towards Turkey, and I am happy to see you maintained in your post.

No. 676.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a letter which I have received from the United States' Minister at this Court, respecting the journey of Mr. Schuyler to Bulgaria, together with a copy of my reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 676.

Mr. Maynard to Sir H. Elliot.

Dear Sir, *United States' Legation, Constantinople, September* 30, 1876.

I INCLOSE a note this moment received from Mr. Schuyler, regretting the two-fold misapprehension which appears in your despatch to the Earl of Derby, published in the London "Daily Telegraph" of the 20th, and reproduced in both the English and French Department of the "Levant Herald" this evening: first, that he went into Bulgaria as an attendant upon, if not attaché to "several newspaper correspondents;" and secondly, that he was forced to depend upon an unreliable interpreter, or, as it is expressed, "at the mercy of the Bulgarian, &c."

Before Mr. Schuyler left Constantinople, I procured from the Porte, for himself, secretary and dragoman, a firman to go into the districts of Adrianople, Philippopoli, and Sophia. At the time I knew nothing of the newspaper correspondents.

I learn from Mr. Schuyler, it may be proper to add, that he understands the Bulgarian language sufficiently to comprehend conversation in it.

In my note accompanying his letter I intimated that his character for integrity made it impossible that he could consciously mislead; his character for sagacity forbids me to believe that he can have been misled.

I cheerfully comply with his request to bring this subject to your notice, so that he may be relieved from the embarrassment occasioned by an evident misunderstanding.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE MAYNARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 676.

Mr. Schuyler to Mr. Maynard.

Consulate-General of the United States of America,

My dear Mr. Maynard, *Constantinople, September* 30, 1876.

SIR HENRY ELLIOT, in his despatch of September 5, inclosing Mr. Baring's Report, printed in the Supplement to the "London Gazette" of September 19, has been led into a misrepresentation with regard to my journey into Bulgaria. I had supposed that, after a conversation which I had with Sir Henry on the 2nd of September, he understood the actual circumstances of my journey, and regret to find that he did not.

Sir Henry says that I "accompanied several newspaper correspondents." On the contrary, for a portion of my journey two newspaper correspondents accompanied me. Mr. McGahan, an old personal friend of mine, now writing for the "Daily News," was on his way to the seat of war, and I gladly invited him to go with me. At Philippopolis I met Dr. Schneider, the correspondent of the "Cologne Gazette," a gentleman personally known to Sir H. Elliot. As Dr. Schneider was looking in vain for an interpreter, and as I saw no reason for conducting my inquiries secretly, I was glad to have him join my party. I may say, at the same time, that I was glad to have the benefit of two independent and impartial observers.

As to the statement that none of the party understood Turkish, and that we were, therefore, at the mercy of a Bulgarian interpreter, I desire to say that besides the Bulgarian to whom he refers, who is an upright and conscientious gentleman, speaking Turkish as well as Bulgarian, and who was most highly recommended to me, I had always one and usually two other interpreters—one Greek and the other Armenian—who spoke Turkish with the fluency of natives.

I shall be greatly obliged to you if you will call Sir Henry's attention to his statements, which may mislead, and ask him to correct them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EUGENE SCHUYLER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 676.

Sir H. Elliot to Mr. Maynard.

Dear Mr. Maynard, *Therapia, October* 4, 1876.

YOUR letter of September 30 only reached me last night, and I hasten to assure you that nothing could be further from my intention than to make any insinuation against the manner in which Mr. Schuyler conducted his inquiry.

I will at once forward to Lord Derby a copy of his letter to you, in which he explains that he did not accompany the newspaper correspondents, but that those gentlemen accompanied him.

You have rather mistaken what I said about his interpreter, as I made no mention of his being accompanied by an "unreliable" person in that character; but, when you have been as long in this country as I have, you will know to how great an extent we are at the mercy of those who interpret for us when we do not know their language. An interpreter, whether Turk or Bulgarian, is certain to have strong sympathies on one side or the other, and whether in putting questions or in rendering the answers, a great deal depends upon his sympathies and feelings, without there being on his part any deliberate intention of misleading.

I certainly was not aware that Mr. Schuyler, who had only just arrived in this country, was, as you tell me, acquainted with the Bulgarian language, and if I had been, I should

not have spoken of him as being at the mercy of his interpreter, which is undoubtedly the case with those who do not understand the language in which the conversation is carried on.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 677.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 7, 1876.

THE difficulties which lie in the way of conclusion of peace appear, in a very slight degree, to depend upon the conditions to be agreed upon between the Porte and the Principalities.

The preliminaries at least might probably be at once signed upon the basis proposed by Her Majesty's Government, if it is possible to separate the question of peace with the Principalities from that of the organization to be given to the insurgent provinces.

By keeping them united it appears to me that there must be inevitably great delay before peace can be established, for whether the understanding that will have to be come to by the Powers is to be arrived at by communications between the Cabinets or by means of a Conference, in either case much delay must ensue, while the armies must be maintained during a precarious armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 678.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 7, 1876.

I HAVE informed your Lordship by telegraph that at a private audience of the Sultan I executed the instructions contained in your despatch of the 21st of September, in respect to the measures which Her Majesty's Government expect to be taken for the relief of the suffering Bulgarians, and for the punishment of the persons chiefly implicated in the cruelties perpetrated upon them.

I commenced by observing that His Majesty at my official audience had alluded to the friendship which had long subsisted between the two countries, and as recent circumstances had worked a great change in the sentiments prevailing in England, I begged him to allow me to speak with perfect freedom, even if in doing so I should be obliged to say much that it would be painful for him to hear.

The Sultan answered that he could never forget the services rendered by Great Britain to this Empire in the time of his father during the Crimean War, and at other times, and that Turkey was under a debt of gratitude to England which she had done little to repay; and he still hoped to be able to look to her for support.

His Majesty begged me to speak to him with perfect freedom.

In order that His Majesty might completely understand the communication I had to make to him, I had previously embodied your Lordship's instruction in a Memorandum, which had been put into Safvet Pasha's hands.

The Sultan, consequently, appeared aware of what I had to say, and when I had spoken as instructed, he did not hesitate to give every assurance that the measures called for by your Lordship, both for the relief of the distress and for the punishment of the guilty, should be carried out.

Among the names of those who appeared to be most implicated, I did not include that of Hafiz Pasha, respecting whose conduct information which I had latterly received made me feel some doubt.

To Chefket Pasha I made particular allusion, and I told His Majesty that it was the impunity extended to him, and others who had acted similarly, that had roused the especial indignation of Europe, which justly considered that the Porte had assumed the responsibility of acts which it ought to have been the first to denounce and to punish.

The Sultan said that he would never tolerate acts such as had been described, and if I would leave with his Minister the names of those whose conduct was most blameable, he would see that the charges against them should be strictly investigated.

He had, he said, that morning received information from the Commissioners at Philippopoli that proceedings were already commenced against two of those most implicated. His Majesty did not name them, but from a telegram from Mr. Baring, I find them to be the notorious Achmet Aga and Tossoun Bey.

I spoke to the Sultan in favour of the persons who deserved credit and reward for protecting their Christian fellow-subjects from the Bashi-Bazouks, and he said it would give him the greatest satisfaction to show them his appreciation of their conduct.

I have given Safvet Pasha the names both of those whose conduct requires strict investigation and of those who exerted themselves on the side of humanity, the list being formed from the Reports of Mr. Baring and of Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, and from such other information as I have been able to obtain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 679.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 7, 1876.*

I NEVER had a more painful duty to perform than that which I was called upon to execute at my private audience of the Sultan.

At a first interview with a Sovereign who had just ascended his Throne under circumstances of overwhelming difficulty, I had to make him understand that the recent acts of the Government of his predecessors had been such as to call down the reprobation and horror of all Europe, and had cost this Empire the sympathy and prospect of support of the one country which had hitherto always been the friend of Turkey.

Nor was this all. When the Sultan spoke of the non-execution of reforms formerly promised, and of his own determination that they should not only be carried out, but added to, it became necessary to make him see that there was no longer a disposition to put faith in the engagements taken by the Porte.

The Sultan evidently felt keenly the distrust with which he is regarded, and which he considers he has done nothing to merit.

I understand that he sometimes says to those about him: "Let the European Powers give me time to carry out the measures upon which I am determined, and if at the end of a fixed period I should be found not to have done so, I shall be ready to submit to their dictation."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 680.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 7, 1876.*

I TOOK the opportunity of my audience of the Sultan to urge strongly on His Majesty the importance of the acceptance by his Government of the conditions of peace proposed by your Lordship and of the immediate conclusion of an armistice.

His Majesty spoke of the relations which had always subsisted between Turkey and Great Britain, whose interests he regarded as common, but said that the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government were more like those which he would have expected to see put forward by that of Russia, whose views were very different.

I pointed out that it had been necessary for your Lordship to get the concurrence of all the other Powers to propositions that were to be supported by them.

Her Majesty's Government continued to take a deep interest in the welfare of this country, and were so thoroughly convinced that the acceptation of the proposed conditions and the immediate conclusion of an armistice were matters of vital importance, that, in the event of their rejection by the Porte, they had directed me to leave Constantinople, as all further efforts on their part to avert the ruin which they saw impending would be useless.

The Sultan said he would deeply deplore such a determination, but that he could say nothing positive in reference to the armistice, as the subject was at that time under the consideration of his Ministers assembled in Council.

All that he could assure me was that he was anxious to see the re-establishment of peace at the earliest possible period, and that he would promote that end to the utmost of his power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 681.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 8, 1876.*

WHEN an armistice is talked of the Turkish Ministers inquire what security there will be of its observance by the Servians, who, as they say, and as is proved by Sir Arnold Kemball's Reports, scarcely made a semblance of regarding the recent suspension of hostilities.

From the language of Safvet Pasha, I judge that if there is to be an armistice the Porte would wish everything connected with it to be arranged by officers appointed by the mediating Powers, who should also see that the positions from which the Turkish troops withdrew are not occupied by the Servians.

The Turkish Ministers also feel strongly that during an armistice a stop should be put to the influx of foreign auxiliaries, which, if it were to continue, would form a formidable army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 682.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1876.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch which I have just received from the British Vice-Consul at Kustendje, calling attention to the fanatical disposition of the Musulmans in that district, and to the apprehensions of the English residents there; and expressing a hope that a gun-boat may be stationed there for their protection.

I have informed Colonel Sankey that, under the Treaties, we have no right to have a ship at Kustendje; but that I shall represent to the Porte the condition of affairs there, and shall bear in mind the position of the English residents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 682.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Kustendje, October 7, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Excellency's notice that in the present excitable state of the Musulman population a feeling of great uneasiness prevails among the English residents in this district.

There are at present here seventy-four English, besides a few other British subjects, and a large capital is represented in the railway.

The Musulmans have of late shown a bad feeling towards the Christians of all denominations, and on every slight quarrel have used threatening language, and these expressions are becoming more frequent. I, myself, have observed an entire change in the manner of the better classes towards Europeans.

We are here surrounded by Turkish, Tartar, and Circassian villages, and in any emergency are quite unprotected. In the present state of feeling, with the strangest rumours afloat and fully believed in by the ignorant people, any paltry quarrel may lead to bloodshed, particularly during the approaching Bairam. And the English have requested me to bring this state of affairs to your Excellency in the hopes that a gun-boat may be stationed here for their protection until affairs become more settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SANKEY.

No. 683.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 9, 1876.

IN forwarding the accompanying despatch from Mr. Baring, respecting the conflicting accounts of the loss of life at Batak, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have called the attention of the Porte to his statement, that the inquiry made by the Commission on this point has not been satisfactory, and that I have supported his suggestion for a further examination of the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 683.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopolis, October* 5, 1867.

BEFORE leaving Tatar-Bazardjik, I had some conversation with Mr. Clarke, respecting the number of persons who perished in the massacre at Batak.

In the general report I had the honour to address to your Excellency, I stated as my opinion that the killed amounted to about 5,000 out of a population of 6,500. The number of houses I put at 650.

Mr. Clarke declares my estimate to be far above the mark, and he founds his opinion on a list drawn up by a native of Batak, one Theodore, son of Pope Necio, who perished in the massacre.

This young man's list gives the following figures:—

KILLED.	
Men and boys	853
Married women..	291
Girls and female children..	756
	1,900
LIVING.	
Men and boys	708
Married women..	489
Girls and female children..	584
	1,781

The original population is therefore placed at 3,681, and the number of houses at 587.

Mr. Clarke tells me he has confidence in the honesty of the compiler of this estimate, and certainly, considering that his father was actually hacked to pieces by the Turks, he cannot be supposed to have any particular partiality for them.

Certain information which I have, however, received, and which I will report to your Excelleney when I have been able to examine it more closely, leads me still to believe that my original estimate of the loss of life is, after all, the correct one.

No one will accuse Mr. Clarke of the slightest partiality, and his noble efforts to relieve the sufferings of the Bulgarians are proof of the kindly sentiments he entertains for them; he has not, however, himself made any inquiries into what took place at the time of the massacre; all he pretends to do is to repeat the statements of the villager I have mentioned above, and to add that, in his opinion, they are worthy of attention.

Theodore has been examined before the Commission, which trusts that his figures and the official statistics will prove my estimate to be erroneous.

I have also had some conversation will Ismail Bey on this subject. He admitted that 131 males had been discovered who had escaped official registration, which fact sufficiently proves that little importance can be attached to these registers.

Moreover, in the figures shown me, there were mistakes in simple addition, and those given me by Ismail Bey do not tally with those given me by Yovantcho Effendi.

Altogether the inquiry made by the Commission into the loss of life at Batak is not satisfactory, and it is to be hoped, for the sake of truth, that the question will be examined more attentively before the final report is issued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 684.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 9, 1876.

THE "Times" of the 2nd instant having published a letter from Mr. Archibald Forbes, the special correspondent of the "Daily News," inclosing a letter which he had addressed to the editor of the "Istok," or official gazette of Servia, in which he alludes to imaginary reports of Sir Arnold Kemball on the state of the Turkish army, I have thought it right to address to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade the despatch of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 684.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Therapia, October* 9, 1876.

THE "Times" of the 2nd instant publishes a letter from Mr. Archibald Forbes, the special correspondent of the "Daily News," inclosing a letter which he had addressed to the editor of the "Istok," or official gazette of Servia, and which contains the following paragraph :—

"As for the Turks, Sir A. Kemball, the British Commissioner at their head-quarters, charged to watch against their perpetration of atrocities, reports the Turkish army to be a disorganized rabble, suffering from the want of the commonest necessaries, and threatening to fall to pieces."

It may be right to inform you that the statement addressed to the "Istok" is entirely unfounded; Sir Arnold has, on the contrary, always spoken highly of the discipline, courage, and endurance of the Turkish troops, and has reported, hitherto, that their health has been remarkably good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 685.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 9, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a further despatch from Sir Arnold Kemball respecting the military operations on the Morava.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 685.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters' Camp, before Alexinatz, October* 2, 1876.

THE annexed telegrams * have already acquainted your Excellency with the course of events here since the date of my last despatch of the 25th ultimo.

The enemy's attacks on Thursday and Saturday (the 28th and 30th) were prosecuted with unusual resolution. From the prisoners, some ten in number, we learn that Horvatovich commanded the Servian forces. His right wing, which was opposed to the Turkish right rear, defended by the division of Adyl Pasha, being led by Tcholak Antich; and his left wing, opposed to the division of Suleyman Pasha, and more directly to the brigade of Hafiz Pasha, being led by Strikovich. General Tchernaieff is said to have visited the ground the previous day on each occasion, but to have returned to Deligrad before the advance commenced.

* Substance sent to Foreign Office by telegraph.

Complete dependence must not, of course, be placed on the statements of prisoners, being private soldiers, whose knowledge is necessarily restricted to the movements of their respective battalions, but on a comparison of those movements it appeared to be certified that Tcholak Antich, with four battalions* and twelve guns, had only joined General Tchernaieff from Yavor three days before the fight of Thursday, and that a very considerable portion of the whole Servian force engaged on both days, comprising twenty-one battalions, consisted of reinforcements arrived since the conclusion of the so-called suspension of hostilities. The attacking force was supported by twenty guns, mostly of position, from batteries more or less constructed after the same date.

I have referred in telegram D to my inspection of the scene of the Servian attack of Thursday on the Turkish right rear. The necessity of verifying reports of the nationality of the slain in point of number imposed upon me this unpleasant duty. On the occasion in question, the enemy being the assailants, and being repulsed close up to the Turkish lines, necessarily abandoned their dead, and among these, unquestionably, there proved to be a large proportion of foreigners. In viewing the foremost bodies I could not avoid the reflection that the lives of brave men had been sacrificed to a misguided enthusiasm, and in a cause that certainly is not hallowed by the patriotism or even the sympathy of the rank and file whom they had undertaken to lead. Making allowance for the fears of prisoners, and a natural desire on their part to extenuate their enforced hostility, there can be little doubt, I think, whatever may be the feelings of their rulers, that the war is not popular with the peasants and rural inhabitants of Servia, whose interest in a contest which has pitted them against a soldiery, in courage, physique, and training incomparably their superiors, is feeble and half-hearted.

I may here mention that the ground over which the Servians made their attack on Thursday was the same precisely (distant four miles from the original Turkish position on these heights) as that on which they had themselves made their last stand in the battle of Friday, the 1st September. Then the combatants on both sides had ceased to be supported by their artillery respectively; now the superior *élan* of the Turks was effectually seconded by the well-sustained fire of their batteries on commanding positions.

The counter-demonstration made by the Turks in the plain between Alexinatz and the trestle bridge more than answered its purpose in recalling to their lines the four Servian battalions with twelve guns which had been pushed forward on the high road. The Turkish force, consisting of three battalions, six guns, and 1,000 horse, had reached the river, and were on the point of crossing it, with the certain prospect of seizing the Servian batteries in the plain, as well as the batteries covering Alexinatz, which (to judge from the feeble opposition offered) appeared to be denuded of their garrisons, when Ahmed Ayoub Pasha stopped the movement.

His motive for foregoing his advantage was the same as that alleged by him for abandoning the crest which had been wrested from the enemy on Saturday night, viz., deference to the orders of the Porte against assuming the offensive, though by his Generals it is attributed to the want of enterprize and excess of caution which have heretofore deprived him of the fruits of his victories.

In the false attack along the right bank of the Morava on Thursday, some Servian troops having incautiously passed over the stream were very severely handled by the Turkish detachments, consisting largely of cavalry, which had been posted under cover to watch them. I did not witness the engagement, which ensued at two points in front of our position, but I am credibly informed, the fact being verified by officers deputed from head-quarters for the purpose, that the number of Servians killed and abandoned on the ground exceeded 300.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL, *Major-General.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 685.

Telegram (A).

Head-Quarters, Tuesday, 9 A.M.

NIGHT affair as usual near trestle bridge, commenced by Servians before 2 A.M., and maintained on both sides with fire of infantry and frequent shells till past 3 A.M.; returns of killed and wounded, if any, later.

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* Forming one complete brigade of the Servian army. There remanied two complete brigades at Yavor.

Telegram (B).

Head-Quarters, Thursday, 2 P.M.

Enemy commenced attack along our whole rear 6 A.M., making feint in direction indicated, trestle bridge, has been repulsed, of course, everywhere, but not without, I fear, some loss to us and more to them. Heavy firing still continues.

Telegram (C).

Head-Quarters, Thursday, 9 P.M.

Attack renewed again and again without any success, supported by heavy artillery until after dark. Turks protest with great justice against bad faith of Servian leaders. I think probable that attack may be renewed to-morrow.

Telegram (D).

Head-Quarters, Friday, 2 P.M.

All quiet as yet, except shells as usual, enemy very probably disheartened, must have suffered heavy losses, including (from personal inspection) large proportion Russians and foreigners. Turkish killed and wounded over 400; official returns of killed and wounded by-and-bye. Have omitted to mention that in the attack, Tuesday, 2 A.M., Servians blew up two trestles of trestle bridge.

Telegram (E).

Head-Quarters, Saturday, 1 P.M.

Returns of killed and wounded, Thursday, 80 and over 400. Enemy commenced attack extreme left rear 9 A.M., but is not gaining ground; strong demonstration in progress. Nish road right side Morava River, supposed to be only intended as a feint to attack in the rear.

Telegram (F).

Head-Quarters, Saturday, 9 P.M.

Turks repelled enemy's attack, assumed offensive, and after hard fight took and occupied crest forming front line of enemy's position; night prevented further advance. Counter demonstration in the direction of Alexinatz was stopped and not permitted cross Morava River. Heavy losses on both sides to-day.

Telegram (G).

Head-Quarters, Sunday, 9 P.M.

Turks withdrew during night from the crest they had won, which was again occupied by the enemy. All quiet to-day. Very few shells. Killed and wounded over 200, and over 1,000 for the two days, Thursday and yesterday.

No. 686.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord, *Vienna, October* 14, 1876.

IN forwarding herewith a despatch for your Lordship from Mr. Consul Holmes, which I have received under flying seal, respecting the statements of Canon Liddon and the Rev. Mr. MacColl of atrocities which had come to their knowledge on the frontier of Bosnia, I have the honour to add that Sir H. Elliot's attention was called to the subject by myself. When I did so, however, I was not aware, as I have since learnt from publications in the "Times," that these gentlemen had obtained their information when passengers in a steam-vessel on the Save, and that they had not travelled along the frontier as I led Sir Henry Elliot to believe.

I avail myself of this opportunity also to mention that I have spoken on the subject to Count Andrassy, who assures me that no atrocities of the kind alleged could have been perpetrated on the frontier of Bosnia without its being known to the Austrian authorities and reported to himself.

The whole story, therefore, probably resolves itself, as suggested by Mr. Holmes, to heads or even bodies having been exposed on poles, as I have myself seen men hanging in chains during the British Protectorate in the Island of Corfu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 687.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, October 5*, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed to Sir Henry Elliot in answer to a request for information regarding a statement made by Canon Liddon that he had seen examples of revolting cruelty perpetrated by Turkish officers of the regular army, who had impaled men and women at all the military stations along the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 687.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bosna Seraï, October 5*, 1876.

WITH regard to the astounding statement made to your Excellency by Canon Liddon and his friend, I have to report that neither the Turkish authorities, the Consuls, nor the people here have ever heard of anything resembling the cruelties mentioned. No statement of the kind has either appeared in any of the Sclave newspapers most hostile to Turkey, and it is quite impossible to imagine that they could have occurred without immediately becoming publicly known.

Mr. Stuart Glennie arrived here a week ago from Servia, having been at Alexinatz and Deligrad, and also along the Turkish frontier of the Drina from the Save to Svornik, and neither in Servia nor in Turkey did he hear a word of any impalements; and was moreover rather favourably impressed than otherwise by all he saw and heard of the behaviour of both the Bashi-Bazouks and the regular troops along the Drina frontier.

Further up the Drina towards Vishegrad and Novi Bazar, the troops are commanded by an European officer, Mehmet Ali Pasha, who cannot possibly be supposed to permit such cruelties.

The Governor-General declares that it is utterly impossible that any Englishman could have travelled along the Bosnian frontier without his having been informed of the fact, as no one can move a mile without the cognizance of the military authorities. All Mr. Glennie's movements were telegraphed to his Excellency, but he has heard nothing of any such party as that of Canon Liddon and friend. Mr. Glennie heard nothing of them either in Servia.

Now if Canon Liddon states that he saw what he describes, of course I can say nothing to the contrary; but if he has only been assured of these atrocities, it is most certain that he has been grossly deceived with a view to make use of his voice and influence as a means of increasing and confirming public feeling in England in the belief of the barbarous conduct attributed to the Turks, and in hostility towards them.

I can say no more than that as far as I am personally concerned, I find it impossible to believe that any such cruelties have been practised.

Impalement is an atrocious torture consisting of running a stake through the body of the victim, and this being fixed upright in the earth, he is allowed to expire in torture, which is often prolonged many hours.

Is Canon Liddon aware of this? or does he call the mere fixing on pikes of the heads cut off from the dead, impalement? There must be some strange mistake in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 688.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 17.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, October* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Governor-General has just communicated to me a telegram, which states that the band which had entered Teshneh and was endeavouring to raise that district had been dispersed, and that no assistance was required from Serajevo. This matter appears to have been considerably exaggerated in the first telegram received by the Governor-General and which caused my telegraph to your Lordship.

Since I last wrote Vely Pasha the Ferik commanding in Bosnia has arrived here from Berlina with three battalions and five or six guns. It seems rather premature as yet to withdraw any forces from the frontier, but this movement has perhaps been occasioned by the late increased activity of the bands in the north-west of Bosnia, in the Sandjak of Bihach, where there has been much fighting.

The Governor-General read to me last night a telegram received from the Turkish Vice-Consul at Simlin, stating that the Russians in Servia have promised Prince Milan that within eight days they will drive the Turks out of the country. The writer added that unless the Turks advanced on Belgrade or gained a decisive victory a Russian intervention was said to be imminent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 689.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 17.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, October* 9, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that 200 German workmen hitherto employed at the gun factory at Spandau, in Prussia, have been engaged by the Servian Government for the next six months for their gun and small arms factory at Kragujevatz, whither they have arrived.

Warm coats and clothing have been contracted for for this army, and, in fact, all those arrangements are being made which presuppose a winter campaign. Russian volunteers continue to arrive.

No. 690.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 17.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October* 11, 1876.

HAVING had several interviews with M. de Kartzoff and my other colleagues, and also with M. Ristitch, on the subject of the projected armistice, I had every reason to believe that one for a month or six weeks, if concluded with all the usual formalities, would be accepted here.

M. Kartzoff assured me that he had been consulted on the occasion, when I had so strongly recommended the renewal of the truce on the 25th September, but that he had neither supported adoption nor advised its rejection at the time, not having any instructions; he admitted that the course which had prevailed, notwithstanding my representations and those of my French and Italian colleagues, had led to the loss of many lives, but he spoke in a sanguine tone if the proposals of a longer truce or armistice were now renewed.

Nothing could be more re-assuring than the language of M. Ristitch on this subject up to last night.

Intelligence has, however, been received from Constantinople this afternoon that the Porte is about to offer an armistice of five months duration.

As far as I can judge of the impression produced by this information, I am inclined to think that it will not find the Prince favourably disposed to the acceptance of so long a term.

But it is premature to express an opinion till we hear how far the Russian Government and its Agent here are prepared to support the last offer of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 691.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord, *Paris, October 16, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes came to me this morning and, after explaining to me the view he took of the present situation of the Eastern question, begged me to let your Lordship know, as soon as possible, that he had come to the conclusion that it would be good policy for the other Powers to yield to the opinion expressed by Russia as to the duration of the armistice, and to consent to some reduction of the period of six months proposed by Turkey.

I have accordingly despatched to your Lordship a telegram to that effect.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 692.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(Extract.) *Paris, October 16, 1876.*

I HAVE already to-day, at the request of the Duc Decazes, informed your Lordship by telegraph that he is of opinion that it would be good policy for the other Powers to make some concession to Russia on the question of the duration of the armistice.

The Duke came to see me this morning, evidently for the purpose of making this suggestion.

He said that, whatever view might be taken of the intentions of Russia, there could, he thought, be no doubt that it would be advantageous to yield to her on this point.

The Duc Decazes went on to say that up to this point he had held to his acceptance of the period proposed by the Porte. He had, in compliance with the request I had made to him, sent instructions to Belgrade and to Cettigné to urge the Servian and Montenegrin Governments to agree to the armistice of six months. In his communications with Russia, he had expressed his hope that the objections of Prince Gortchakow had been founded on the first telegraphic reports from Constantinople, and that they would be removed when his Highness saw the text of the notes of the Porte respecting the armistice and the reforms.

The Duke observed to me that, in fact, all the Representatives at Constantinople, except Sir Henry Elliot, had led their Governments to suppose that the Porte had clogged its assent to the armistice with conditions *sine quibus non*. For several days the Governments had been kept in suspense with regard to the particulars of these conditions. At last it appeared that there were no such conditions at all, but that the Porte had merely expressed wishes which it left unreservedly to the appreciation of the Powers. It was not, however, surprising that in the interval the Russian and other Governments had conceived doubts as to what the Porte might really mean. These doubts had, indeed, been removed by the actual terms of the note; but in the meantime the Russian Government had committed itself to objections to the duration of the armistice in such a manner as to render it very difficult for it now to recede from them.

It was also, the Duke said, to be remembered that the note concerning the armistice was immediately followed by one concerning the reforms. The two notes ought to be taken together, and so taken, they certainly seemed to show an earnest desire on the part of the Porte to satisfy the Powers. In fact, the reforms, as stated in the note, appeared to contain all that had been asked of the Porte, and to leave only one question open, that of the guarantees for the execution of them which the Powers required.

The Duke went on to say that he had availed himself of these considerations in communicating with the Russian Government, and had maintained the opinion that the Russian objections must rest upon a misunderstanding produced by the first imperfect accounts transmitted by telegraph. He found, however, that it would be impossible for him to maintain this position much longer. The Russian Government, with the full written information before it, seemed resolved to adhere to its objections; and he confessed that he thought that it would be expedient to yield to them. He begged me to let your Lordship know as soon as possible that this was his opinion.

No. 693.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord, *Paris, October 16, 1876.*

I HAVE mentioned in my immediately preceding despatch of this date, that the Duc Decazes said to me this morning that the note from the Porte communicating to the Powers the reforms which it had resolved to introduce into the Empire seemed to reduce the matter simply to the question of the guarantees to be obtained by them for the execution of these reforms.

The Duke said that he did not see that any difficulty need arise about this question. The Powers could, he thought, establish these guarantees for themselves, even without the participation of the Porte. It would suffice, he conceived, to assemble a Conference at which a Protocol should be signed by the Plenipotentiaries, recording the fact that this system of reforms had been formally communicated to their respective Governments, and declaring that if the Porte should fail to execute it, she would forfeit the support of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 694.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 17, 1876.*

I APPROVE the advice which you gave to your Turkish colleague to telegraph to his Government to urge the acceptance of the English terms of peace, as reported in your Excellency's despatch of the 1st instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 695.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 17, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador, in a conversation which he held with me this day, spoke with anxiety of the situation, which he described as unsatisfactory and even dangerous. The Emperor of Russia, he said, had decided some time ago that having regard to the feeling of his own people, and to the agitation that prevailed among them, he could not longer allow the continuance of war between Servia and Turkey. With the view of putting an end to it he had engaged in negotiations for an armistice; and the armistice proposed by the Porte being inadmissible, it was difficult to see what expedient remained. Either a new arrangement must be made in the nature of a compromise between the Russian and the Turkish proposals, or Russia would be thrown back on her original proposition of an occupation of Turkish territory.

I said that it was unnecessary to warn his Excellency as to the danger of a general disturbance of European peace which was involved in any such scheme of occupation, however limited it might be both as to area and as to time.

Count Schouvaloff then added as a personal suggestion that as it could not be easy for either the Russian or the English Government, both of which had already expressed decided opinions on the matter in dispute, to offer a new suggestion to the Porte, it might be well if some other Government, hitherto unpledged, like that of Germany or of Austria, should undertake to come forward with a plan which both might accept as a compromise. I said, in reply, that I saw no objection in principle to the course which he suggested, though I must, of course, reserve my opinion till I knew whether any such interposition was likely to take place, and in what sense. I told Count Schouvaloff that I had already taken steps to ascertain, more accurately than I knew it at present, the opinion of the German Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 696.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1876.

THE "Times" of to-day publishes a letter from its correspondent at Therapia, dated the 10th instant, in which it is stated that Sadullah Bey, the President of the Bulgarian Commission, is "enjoying at Philippopoli the hospitality of Achmet Agha."

I have to request that your Excellency will report to me what truth there is in this statement, and you will at the same time inform me whether or not Achmet Agha has been arrested.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 697.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1876.

IT is of great importance, at the present crisis, that Her Majesty's Government should have the clearest possible understanding of the attitude taken by each of the Powers with regard to the successive phases of the pending negotiations with the Porte. With respect to the attitude of Prince Bismarck as regards the acceptance of the Turkish proposal for an armistice of five months, there has been some confusion which your Excellency will probably be able to explain.

On the 11th instant you were informed by telegraph that Sir Henry Elliot had reported on the 10th that this proposal had been made by the Porte.

On the 13th instant you telegraphed that the acceptance of the armistice had been urged on Servia by the German Government. On the receipt of this information Her Majesty's Government informed the Powers that Germany, as well as France and Austria, had accepted the armistice. They had no doubt that the acceptance was absolute; but it appears from your despatch of the 13th instant, that, though instructions had been sent to the German Consul-General at Belgrade to speak to the Servian Government in the same sense as His Majesty's Consul-General, Herr von Bülow had said that, considering the possible objections of Austria and Russia, the German Government would reserve their opinion until they should have received more detailed reports from Constantinople and knew the views of the Guaranteeing Powers. It would seem from these remarks of Herr von Bülow that Her Majesty's Government were mistaken in supposing that the armistice had been accepted by Germany but, as it is important that there should be no misapprehension on the point, I should wish to know whether your telegram of the 13th was founded on a conversation in which no mention had been made of the reservation of the decision of Germany, or whether there were special reasons for delaying the information as to the hesitation of the Imperial Government when you telegraphed that the instructions to urge the acceptance of the armistice had been sent to the German Agent at Belgrade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 698.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 17, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 17, 1876, 4 P.M.

ACTING Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me this morning that Prince Bismarck, without giving any decided opinion, had, however, admitted the explanations of Prince Gortchakow against long armistice.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 699.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 18.)

(Extract.) *Rome, October 14, 1876.*

I INFORMED Signor Melegari to-day that I was instructed to ask why he considered that a six months' armistice would be the ruin of Servia and Montenegro. I urged that the refusal of the Italian Government to recommend the acceptance of the armistice might have disastrous consequences in showing that there were dissenters among the Powers, and in encouraging the prosecution of the war by Servia, and the continuance of bloodshed with the possibility of European complications; and I said that Her Majesty's Government hoped, therefore, that on further consideration the Government of His Italian Majesty would not withhold support to the action taken by England, Germany, Austria, and France.

His Excellency said that he had already given me the reasons which led him to form so unfavourable an opinion of the result of a six months' armistice to Servia and Montenegro, and to the insurgent Provinces. That he had telegraphed these views to General Menabrea, who would submit them forthwith to your Lordship. He was willing to follow the example of the Powers named as having recommended Servia to accept the armistice, but he desired first to submit his views upon this subject to them; and he urged that the fact of his having already designated the officials who should be charged to assist in drawing up the military details of the armistice proved that he was favourable to an armistice in principle. He proceeded to elaborate the objections already made by him which I mentioned in my despatch of the 12th instant, and he declared that if he now made difficulties, it was purely from the humanitarian point of view, as he could not contemplate the possibility of negotiations being protracted during the winter without shuddering at the consequences to the suffering populations of the Provinces and the Principalities.

No. 700.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 18.)

My Lord, *Vienna, October 15, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a translation of a letter from Belgrade to the "Politische Correspondenz," a semi-official journal, on the subject of the number of Russian officers now serving in the Servian army.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 700.

Extract from the "Presse."

(Translation.)

THE Russian Committees continue to pay their attention to the relief of the military wants of Servia. The deficiency in the number of officers has been entirely remedied since the 1st of September, at which date there were already 479 Russian officers in the Servian army. Tchernaieff then turned the attention of the Committees to the fact that they were in urgent want of educated non-commissioned officers, and at the present moment the number of Russian non-commissioned officers in the Morava army alone amounts to 592, half of whom have received the medal for "bravery."

The next gap to be filled up was in the cavalry. Accordingly, 1,800 Cossacks have arrived within the last four weeks, some of them splendidly mounted, and quite equal to the Turkish cavalry, even to the well-known Tcherkessen.

Lastly, the artillery was taken into consideration; for, though it has been excellently worked during the war, the Servian guns were found to be too small to be of much use. This deficiency has also now been partially remedied. Two batteries of mitrailleuses and two batteries of heavy guns have arrived from Moscow, and were yesterday dispatched to Deligrad, where they are to be worked by Russian artillerymen. A heavy battery has also been sent off to-day to the Ibar army, in charge of two Russian officers.

The Russian Lieutenant Mussin Puschkin, a relation of the celebrated Russian poet Puschkin, has greatly distinguished himself by blowing up a bridge which had been thrown

over the Morava by the Turks, and has to-day received his appointment as a captain in reward for his services. He is also to be Commandant of the Sotnia of Cossacks, who are to form the Prince's body-guard at head-quarters.

Count Lewackoff is to receive the command of the cavalry in the Drina army. Very large quantities of ammunition have arrived the last few days through Roumania, and twelve cases of swords and 22,000 muskets have just been sent in the same way.

No. 701.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated confidentially to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 18.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 17 *Octobre,* 1876.

LE Gouverneur-Général de Widin nous télégraphie ce qui suit :—

" Dans la nuit du 25 Septembre, vieux style, 260 Russes armés ont passé en Servie, par Tourno-Séverin ; la nuit suivante, 240 autres individus se sont servis de la même voie pour se rendre à Belgrade à bord du bateau le 'Déligrad.' Le 27 du même mois, 60 Russes ont traversé également Tourno-Séverin pour aller en Servie. Parmi ces gens, on en a remarqué plusieurs portant le costume et parlant la langue Circassienne. Recrutés parmi les Cosaques du Daghestan, ils ont été dirigés en grande partie vers Belgrade et à Nigotine, très probablement pour être lancés, le cas échéant, vers nos villages Circassiens, pour commettre toutes sortes de méfaits à la faveur de leur déguisement, et tromper, même parfois nos corps de gardes."

Veuillez entretenir confidentiellement le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la nouvelle tactique à laquelle les Serviens ont recours.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 17, 1876.

THE Governor-General of Widdin telegraphs to us as follows :—

" In the night of the 25th of September (old style) 260 armed Russians passed into Servia by Tourno-Séverin. The following night 240 others proceeded by the same route to Belgrade on board the 'Deligrad.' The 27th of the same month sixty Russians also passed Tourno-Séverin to go into Servia. Amongst these people several have been seen wearing the Circassian costume and speaking that language. Recruited amongst the Cossacks of Daghestan, the greater part have been sent towards Belgrade and to Nigotine, most probably to be sent, if the opportunity occurs, towards our Circassian villages, to commit all sorts of misdeeds under cover of their disguise, and to deceive sometimes even our sentinels."

Please speak confidentially to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the new tactics to which the Servians are having recourse.

No. 702.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1876.

I APPROVE the note, of which a copy was inclosed in your despatch of the 10th instant, which you addressed to the Italian Government, acquainting them with the substance of the reply of Her Majesty's Government to the proposals of Russia for the occupation of Bosnia and Bulgaria and the entry of the fleets into the Bosphorus.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 703.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram from Prince Gortchakow to the following effect :—

His Highness states that no one has yet refuted the arguments adduced by Russia

for the limitation of the armistice to six weeks. Moreover, while maintaining this principle the Russian Government admit that the armistice might be prolonged if the negotiations for peace rendered this necessary.

He remarks that the Turkish Foreign Minister adheres inflexibly to the term of six months, and rejects the system of autonomy and the proposed Protocol; thus indirectly refusing the basis proposed by England, and affirming the sufficiency of the reforms promised by the Porte.

Prince Gortchakow asks whether this defiance of all Europe is to be accepted; Russia, his Highness says, certainly will not do so. No Power is more desirous of a general European agreement in the interests of humanity and civilisation. Russia has no interested views in this question, but there are limits which cannot be passed consistently with honour and dignity. The Russian Government leave their conduct to the judgment of history.

His Highness believes that the obstinacy of the Porte would cease if it were not encouraged by the absence of union among the Powers; and in reply to an observation addressed to him by Count Schouvaloff as to the acceptance of the six months' armistice by the other Powers, Prince Gortchakow expresses his doubt whether this is the fact, stating that, among others, Germany has given no decided opinion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 704.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador communicated to me this afternoon the instructions given by his Government to their Ambassador at St. Petersburgh with regard to the Turkish proposal for a five months' armistice.

The instructions state that the opinion of the Austrian Government is decidedly in favour of a long armistice, as better in the interests of peace and of commerce; but that it is important that the Porte should accept the *status quo* for Servia and Montenegro as a basis of peace, and should also declare its readiness to abide by the decision of the Powers.

The Austrian Government add, that in view of the approaching meeting of the Austro-Hungarian Parliaments, it would be difficult for them to refuse the Turkish proposal, and that being under the necessity of pronouncing a public decision they declare themselves ready to accept it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 705.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram from Count Andrassy, stating that he had informed your Excellency that the Austrian Government accept the Turkish proposal of armistice as it stands ("telle quelle") without restriction, and have recommended it to Servia and Montenegro.

Count Andrassy has instructed Count Beust to make the same communication to me, and to say that he will be glad to be informed if there should be any change of view on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 706.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1876.

THE German Ambassador called upon me this afternoon at my request, and I spoke to him in the sense of the telegraphic instruction which I addressed to your Lordship yesterday.

I said that being led to anticipate objections by the Porte to the bases of peace which had been proposed by England in concert with the other Powers, Her Majesty's Government had, at the instance of Russia, pressed the Porte to agree to an armistice of not less than a month, with the intention that a Conference should immediately follow on its conclusion.

The Turkish Government had accepted the armistice, proposing that it should be for five months; but the Russian Government had objected to so long a term, and insisted on its limitation to a month or six weeks, subject to renewal if necessary. They had also intimated that their acceptance of a Conference would be conditional on the exclusion of a Turkish Representative.

The efforts of Her Majesty's Government to bring about an agreement between the views of the opposite parties seemed thus to be exhausted, and it must, I thought, remain for some other Power, hitherto unpledged, to come forward with a fresh proposal, if one could be discovered which would be likely of acceptance.

The Government of Germany, which had hitherto maintained an attitude of reserve, and was not committed to any decided opinion upon the points at issue, might be able usefully to intervene at this juncture, and to exert the great influence which they undoubtedly possessed, to procure the acceptance of some compromise, and avert the danger, which now seemed imminent, of an open rupture between Turkey and Russia.

I begged Count Münster to lay these observations before Prince Bismarck, who would be ready, I felt sure, to exert himself, as far as lay in his power, to prevent any further disturbance of European peace.

Count Münster promised that he would do so, and would make me acquainted as soon as possible with Prince Bismarck's views, but said that he was unable at present to give me any information on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 707.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 19.)

My Lord, *Rome, October* 16, 1876.

I INFORMED Signor Melegari yesterday that, having telegraphed to your Lordship his Excellency's hope that you would insist upon the armistice being reduced to two months, I had been informed in reply that Her Majesty's Government did not see any reason for doing so, and that they had already joined the other Powers in accepting the Turkish proposal. I added that I was instructed to urge most strongly upon the Government of the King of Italy not to separate their action from that of Austria and the other Powers, who had already assented to the armistice. I pointed out that, by doing so, they would incur the gravest responsibility, and I reminded his Excellency once more of his previous assurances of his desire to act in concert with England, whose interests, like those of Italy, were in the preservation of European peace.

His Excellency observed, upon this point, that he had, indeed, always urged England to take the lead, and had supported loyally every step which she had taken, and, in the present instance, he would continue in the same course, but he must have time to see what he was doing. He had already informed me that he had formed a very unfavourable opinion of the result of a six months' armistice to the Principalities and the Provinces. We asked him, notwithstanding, to advise Servia to accept it. He was so penetrated with the necessity of concert that he would yield to this request if the other Powers acted in the same sense, but he thought that England would admit that it was his duty to acquaint himself, through his own Agents, as to the course which the other Governments intended to adopt before he telegraphed to Servia to recommend her to accept an armistice of which he did not approve, and gave advice which he would only give because of his desire not to separate himself from England and the other Powers.

I said that Her Majesty's Government would learn with very great regret that Italy continued to abstain, even though the abstention were temporary, as they were most anxious that the same advice should be given simultaneously by the Powers at Belgrade and Cettigné.

His Excellency ultimately stated that he would send a telegram to the Italian Agents in Servia and Montenegro desiring them to prepare the Governments of those Principalities to accept the armistice, and I wrote down the message as his Excellency composed it, as follows:—

"Sur les instances de l'Angleterre les autres Puissances paraissant, malgré l'avis

contraire de la Russie, disposées à accepter les contrepropositions de la Porte, vous préparerez le Gouvernement de Servie Montenégro à ne pas entraver par un refus absolu les intentions bienveillantes de l'Europe."

His Excellency, to whom I gave a copy of what I had written, said that I might telegraph to your Lordship that he would send an instruction in the above sense immediately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 708.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

My Lord, *Rome, October 16, 1876.*

THE disinclination of Italy to recommend Servia and Montenegro to accept the six months' armistice proposed by the Porte has not unnaturally been ascribed to a desire on the part of Italy to do nothing which might give umbrage to Russia.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has been at pains to assure me that the course which he has adopted has not been the result of any pressure brought to bear upon him by that Power, and he has spoken at length on the reports which have circulated ever since the journey of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Piedmont to St. Petersburgh, to the effect that Italy was drawing closer to Russia.

He gave the origin of this visit, which he stated to have been the result of an invitation made on the occasion of the funeral of the Emperor Ferdinand, and he repelled the idea that politics had aught to do with it, or that a change in foreign policy was the result of it.

The reports spoken of by his Excellency have gained so much consistency that though very unwilling to express an opinion which must necessarily be of a speculative nature, and which is contrary to the general one, I think I ought to say that I believe there to be no truth in the idea that the present policy of Italy is founded on a specific understanding between her and Russia.

It is only natural to suppose that Italian statesmen keep in view the possibility of a war between Russia and Austria, arising out of the Eastern question. They will also naturally have some doubt as to England taking part in it after the recent ebullition of feeling.

Under such circumstances Russia would be the Power from whom they might expect assistance in proportion to services rendered.

The situation is sufficiently clear to account for Italy acting apparently in the interests of Russia, without suspecting that she is acting under pressure from her, or in consequence of a secret understanding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 709.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 19, 1876, 12·20 P.M.*

MR. BARING tells me that there is no truth whatever in the statement of the "Times" correspondent that Sadoullah Bey is enjoying the hospitality of Achmet Agha at Philippopoli. Achmet Agha, who is under arrest while his trial is being carried on, does not live at Philippopoli, but belongs to a distant part of the district.

No. 710.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 19, 1876.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 12th instant, reporting the conversation which took place between yourself and Signor Melegari, when you pointed out to his

Excellency the importance of Italy urging Servia to accept the five months' armistice proposed by the Porte, and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your language on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 711.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1876.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that I was on the point of instructing you to request the British Admiral to dispatch a gun-boat to the Danube, as suggested in your telegram of the 7th instant, when I received your further telegram of yesterday's date; and I approve of your having requested the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" to proceed to Tchenervoda for the protection of British interests.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 712.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1876.

COUNT ANDRASSY stated to your Excellency, in the conversation reported in your telegram of the 17th instant, that he wished me to state clearly what course Her Majesty's Government are disposed to maintain and recommend, in order that he might act in concert with them.

Her Majesty's Government have every wish to communicate most frankly with Count Andrassy, and reciprocate his wish for concerted action. It is their desire that you should inform him that, having accepted the proposal of the Porte for an armistice of six months, they will not make any new proposition; but that, if the Porte is willing to reduce the length of the armistice as desired by Russia, Her Majesty's Government will place no obstacles in the way.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 713.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1876.

AT at a late hour yesterday evening the German Ambassador informed me that he had received a telegram from Berlin to the following effect:—

The German Government had, from the beginning of the Oriental crisis, always had in view as their principal object the maintenance of peace in Europe. They had, in the interest of peace, endeavoured to prevent divisions among the friendly Powers more directly interested in the East, and had always tried to avoid taking any decisive part in favour of any one of the Powers. As far as a general understanding could be obtained, they had joined the others and placed their influence at their disposal; but they had never gone further. They could not now deviate from this line of conduct, and could not take a leading part which the natural position of Germany in the East would not justify, and which might endanger the peace of Europe. Although they were of opinion that an armistice of six months was, apparently, acceptable, and although they would have wished Russia to accept it, they did not think, considering the position which they had hitherto held, that they would be justified in exercising a pressure on the resolutions of other Powers. They considered, however, that an armistice of six weeks, the longest term within which an agreement was to be obtained, and which was only two weeks longer than the term originally proposed by England, might, perhaps, offer some chance of a solution.

Upon the Ambassador communicating to me this telegram, I at once called his

attention to the last paragraph, in which it was stated that the period of six weeks was only two weeks longer than the period originally proposed by England. I pointed out to his Excellency that if it was meant by this to state that Her Majesty's Government had proposed an armistice of one month, the statement was founded upon a misconception of the facts; the proposal made on the 1st of September, and that again made on the 5th of October, having been for an armistice of not less than a month, which was a very different suggestion from that of the limitation of the armistice to one month.

In order that this point may be clearly understood, I should wish your Excellency to explain it to the Imperial Government, and, if you should think it necessary, you are authorized to read the passages in my despatches to Sir H. Elliot of the 1st of September and of the 5th of October, in which are contained the instructions given to him as to the duration of the armistice which he was to propose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 714.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

My Lord, *Athens, October 9, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, extracted from the "Messager d'Athènes," an account of the open-air meeting held at Athens on the 1st instant, together with a translation of the speeches delivered on that occasion.

Meetings with a similar object are reported to have been since held in many other towns in Greece, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me to-day that great enthusiasm prevailed throughout the country, and that the Government had received a report from the Nomarch at Lamia, stating that at a meeting held at a town near the Turkish frontier, 30,000 drachmas had been subscribed towards the fund for increasing the military strength of Greece.

The Minister of the Interior has, it is stated in the "Stoa" newspaper of the 7th instant, addressed a Circular to the Nomarchs and Eparchs throughout the Kingdom, ordering them to commence drilling those who are already enrolled in the National Guard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 715.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

My Lord, *Athens, October 12, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Binney, Her Majesty's Consul at Syra, in a letter dated the 10th instant, reports to me that a meeting was held at Tinos for a similar purpose as those lately held at Athens and the Piræus. I inclose herewith a translation of the Resolutions which were adopted at that meeting.

Mr. Binney further states that there was some intention of holding a meeting at Syra on the 8th instant, with a view also of urging the Government to arm the nation, but as the scheme did not meet with the countenance of all of the principal inhabitants of the island it did not take place; he says, however, that it is rumoured that a meeting is likely to be held on the 15th instant. He also reports that about twenty-five young men are being drilled daily to become officers of the volunteers, but that the people of Syra have not responded very freely to the invitation of the authorities to enrol themselves in the National Guard.

I have also the honour to report to your Lordship that Mr. Wood, Her Majesty's Consul at Patras, informs me that a great meeting was announced for last Sunday, the 8th instant, in the public square of that town to express sympathy for the Christians in the Turkish provinces, and the hope that the Great Powers would liberate them from the Turkish yoke. Patras appears, however, to be divided into two political parties, and as one party wished to recommend the necessity of going to war as soon as possible, whilst the other was opposed to that idea, the great meeting did not take place, but a patriotic

speech was addressed to an assemblage of about 500 or 600 persons. Mr. Wood states that demonstrations have been held at Pyrgos, Vostitza, and other towns in the Morea in favour of the Christians; but he expresses a doubt as to whether the inhabitants of the Morea will be prepared to make the heavy sacrifices that a war with Turkey would entail.

The Chamber of Deputies, as I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch of the 4th instant, met on the 2nd instant; but it was not till yesterday that a House was formed. The election of a President of the Chamber has not yet taken place, and I do not anticipate that any measures of importance will be presented to the House before the arrival of His Majesty the King, which is looked forward to with much impatience, and which is announced for the middle of next week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 715.

Resolutions of the People of the Island of Tinos.

THE inhabitants of the Island of Tinos, having unanimously and fraternally assembled, hasten to declare that they have heard with inexpressible joy and satisfaction that the Great Powers have been pleased to take into consideration the sacred rights of the Christians who groan under the Turkish rule.

But they cannot for a moment conceal the deep sorrow they feel in seeing that the rights of their co-nationalists, which have been obtained after so many struggles, have not been taken into consideration, for the only reason that our brethren who are under the Turkish yoke, thinking that they should not throw impediment in the peaceable policy of the Powers, have not taken up arms against the Turkish Government.

For this cause, and on account of the sacred obligations the Free Hellenic people owe to their brethren, the meeting of the people has resolved:—

1. The Government is to be urged to submit the rights of our brethren to the Great Powers, and at the same time declare that it is impossible for the people of free Greece to suffer any longer the injustice done to them.

2. To arm the nation quickly, and at any sacrifice.

The Eparch of Tinos is requested to forward these resolutions to the Government.

The Committee of the Meeting of the people of Tinos,
(Signed) C. NAZOS.
JOHN P. GIZIS.
GEO. POLICHRONIADES.
M. TH. DAXIMADIS.

Tinos, September 26, 1876 (o.s.).

No. 716.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 20, 1876.

AT an interview which I had this day with the Russian Ambassador, I informed his Excellency of the decision of Her Majesty's Government.

I said to Count Schouvaloff that, having accepted the proposal of the Turkish Government for a six months' armistice, we were not prepared to withdraw our acceptance, nor were we disposed to make any new proposition.

I added that, if the Porte is willing to consent to a shorter term, Her Majesty's Government would offer no objection. They cannot, however, press the Porte on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 717.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 20, 1876, 4·5 P.M.

I HAVE communicated to Minister for Foreign Affairs, through Baron Orczy, the decision of Her Majesty's Government respecting the armistice. His Excellency said nothing has been received at the Ministry from Russia since the circular proposing six weeks.

Although Austria has sent instructions to Belgrade and Montenegro, recommending the acceptance of the five months' armistice, she has not notified officially her own acceptance of it at Constantinople, and will doubtless therefore now be ready to adopt any concession which the Porte may make to Russia.

Baron Orczy thinks the Porte will accept the term of six weeks with the expression of a hope that the Powers will consent to its being prolonged if the preliminaries of peace are not concluded before its expiration.

No. 718.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 20, 1876.

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador called upon me to-day, and informed me, by order of his Government, that the reports which have been recently, and are still current, as to the existence of a secret understanding between the Austrian and Russian Governments, are absolutely unfounded.

His Excellency assured me that the Austrian Government entirely agreed with that of Her Majesty upon the subject of the armistice, and that their views had not been in any way changed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 719.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 23.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my Report of this date, to Sir Henry Elliot, relative to the state of affairs in Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 719.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, October* 5, 1876.

THE public mind in this town is again distracted and harrassed by false rumours and wilful misrepresentations artfully circulated for the purpose of encouraging local discord and sedition. Last week there was a sort of panic in the place, caused by the report that the Mahomedans were preparing to massacre the Christians. I am happy to say that the report turned out to be as idle as it was causeless; and I am satisfied from all I hear and observe that there is no present danger of a fanatical outbreak in this town. But these recurring reports of impending massacres do a vast amount of mischief; they disturb and unsettle the minds of the inhabitants and generate mutual suspicions and animosity between Christians and Mahomedans, which may be productive of serious consequences, especially at the present time, when the hopes of the Greeks are encouraged, and the feelings of the Turks excited and irritated by passing events and by the growing impression that they, the Turks, are to be driven out of the country by the

combined action of the European Powers. The leading men among the Turks in this and other towns of my district have held private meetings, I am told, to protest against the acceptance by the Porte of terms of peace that may affect the integrity of the Empire, and the rights and status of their co-religionists in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, which they are determined to defend, they say, to the last extremity.

I also gather, from all I hear, that the Turks begin to watch with uneasiness the attitude and proceedings of the Greek Government, and to suspect that the recent revival of brigandage in the Turkish frontier provinces is connected with some preconcerted political movement.

I cannot say how far their apprehensions are justified; but the impression gains ground here that if the right of self-government is conceded to Bulgaria, the Greeks and their Government will not remain quiet till the same concession is granted to Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia.

Greeks arriving here from Athens descant on what they term the "disinterested" neutrality of their Government in the present war; and are under the impression, and expect that the European Powers will oblige the Porte to reward them by some large concessions in behalf of their coreligionists.

They say that by their social and intellectual improvement, and by remaining quiet and not taking any part in insurrectionary movements, the Christians in these subject provinces have shown themselves fit to assume self-government; and that they are far more deserving than the Bulgarians of the sympathy and assistance of the European Powers.

On the other hand, the Christian population in the rural districts of Macedonia continue to hold a passive attitude in the present crisis; and I gather from the accounts which I receive from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter and Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, that the Christians in Thessaly and Epirus are quiet, and do not reveal any agitation or offensive designs against Ottoman authority.

But if these provinces do not evince a disposition to avail themselves of the present complications to clamour for political rights, there is some reason to apprehend that the Greeks on the other side of the border, who all along have been confidently expecting to profit by these complications, will take the initiative themselves, and try to get up an enthusiasm and agitation in favour of those they call their oppressed brethren.

If such a movement is got up, we may expect to see these provinces become the theatre of very serious disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 720.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 22.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch of the 9th instant to Sir Henry Elliot respecting the news spread here of popular excitement in Greece in connection with Eastern affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 720.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Salonica, October* 9, 1876.

THE news is spread here that there is great popular excitement in Greece in connection with Eastern affairs; that the Greeks are arming, and that the drilling of young men is actively carried on in the principal towns.

The Porte appears to be aware of this state of affairs, as last night and this morning telegrams were wired through Salonica from the Seraskier to the Ottoman authorities in Thessaly and Epirus, making pressing inquiries as to the number of troops, military stores and supplies available for active service in these provinces.

So far no signs of disaffection have manifested themselves in Macedonia, and

I do not think that the Christian inhabitants of this province are ready or inclined to rise.

No. 721.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 21, 1 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 20, 1876, 9·40 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW speaking of Conference says that, although your Lordship had proposed that it should be held at Constantinople, the Russian Government wished it to take place elsewhere, and that he himself was strongly of opinion that this would not be the best place.

I told General Ignatiew that I was not aware of your Lordship having suggested a Conference at Constantinople, or one from which Turks were to be excluded, as the Russian Government seemed to wish.

No. 722.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 21, 1876.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 12th instant, reporting a conversation which had taken place on that morning between yourself and the Duc Decazes on the subject of the proposed Conference on the Eastern question, and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to his Excellency on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 723.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 21, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government approve the language which your Excellency addressed to the Sultan on the occasion of your presenting your credentials, a copy of which is inclosed in your despatch of the 5th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 724.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 21, 1876.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 9th instant, and I approve your supporting Mr. Baring's suggestion for a further examination respecting the conflicting accounts of the loss of life at Batak.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 725.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 21, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's having strongly urged on the Sultan the importance of accepting the proposals of peace made by them, and for the immediate conclusion of an armistice, as reported in your despatch of the 7th instant.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 726.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 21, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government entirely approve the language which you held to the Sultan at your private audience upon the late atrocities in Bulgaria, as reported in your Excellency's despatch of the 7th instant.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 727.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 21, 1876.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 5th instant, I have to convey to your Excellency my approval of the note which you addressed to Mr. Maynard in reply to his letter of the 30th of September, respecting the journey of Mr. Schuyler to Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 728.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 21, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatches of the 14th instant, reporting a conversation which you had held on the same morning with Signor Melegari in regard to the objections entertained by the Italian Government to a six months' armistice; and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to his Excellency on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 729.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 11, 1876.

BEFORE receiving your Lordship's despatch of the 28th ultimo, I had already spoken at the Porte against the appointment of Hakki Pasha as Governor-General of Widdin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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* No. 680. † No. 678.

No. 730.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 12, 1876.

THE inclosed note from the Porte conveys its consent to the conclusion of a regular armistice with Servia and Montenegro.

Your Lordship will also observe that the Turkish Government, in signifying this decision, state that they do so "en prenant acte" of the proposals of the Powers for the re-establishment of peace with those Principalities on the basis of the *status quo ante*, and declaring themselves always ready to accept the decision of the Powers on the conditions proposed by the Porte.

The Porte considers that the approach of the winter makes it desirable that the armistice should be for a longer period than that suggested by the Powers, and that it ought to extend to the end of March.

This is not put forward as a condition of the acceptance, but is stated as the view of the Porte, and is in itself so reasonable that little can be fairly urged against it.

A short time ago the Russian Government proposed that the armistice should be for three months, while Her Majesty's Government proposed that it should be indefinite, and it cannot be supposed that the Mediating Powers, after once having taken in hand the conclusion of a peace, can contemplate the renewal of hostilities.

Indeed, when the question of the length of the armistice was on one occasion being discussed by my colleagues, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, who was advocating the longer period, observed that the advantage of it would be to allow the season while hostilities were practicable to pass, and that the negotiations of peace and of the arrangements for the insurgent Provinces could, if necessary, be carried on through the whole winter.

The Porte asks the Mediating Powers to name their Commissioners for arranging the armistice as quickly as possible.

It might have been better to have omitted the paragraph expressing the hope that measures would be taken to prevent the influx of foreign volunteers and the continued introduction of arms and ammunition into Servia, as being liable to give offence in certain quarters, and calculated to increase the difficulty of obtaining the acceptance of Servia.

The proposal is in itself perfectly reasonable, although the Porte would have acted more prudently in making it to the different Governments through its Ambassadors, instead of putting it into the present note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 730.

Safvet Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 12 *Octobre,* 1876.

LA Sublime Porte a pris en sérieuse considération la proposition des Puissances médiatrices touchant la conclusion d'un armistice régulier ayant pour but d'amener la suspension des hostilités avec la Serbie et le Monténégro.

Dans sa communication du 14 Septembre, la Sublime Porte avait fait connaître aux Gouvernements amis les raisons qui, eu égard aux termes auxquelles la question de la paix elle-même était ramenée, rendaient superflue la conclusion d'un armistice en règle.

Prenant acte aujourd'hui de la proposition des Puissances pour le rétablissement de la paix avec la Serbie et le Monténégro sur la base du *statu quo ante* et tout en se déclarant toujours prêt à accepter la décision des Puissances au sujet des conditions proposées par lui dans sa susdite communication, le Gouvernement Impérial n'hésite pas à donner son consentement à la conclusion d'un armistice régulier.

Il est, toutefois, aisé de reconnaître que vu l'approche de la mauvaise saison, il y a lieu de prolonger la durée de l'armistice au delà du minimum demandé par les Puissances. Aussi la Sublime Porte croit-elle qu'il doit comprendre une durée de six mois commençant le 1er Octobre et finissant le 31 Mars (v. s.).

Il dépend maintenant des dispositions bienveillantes des Puissances Médiatrices de hâter la suspension des hostilités en désignant le plus tôt possible leurs délégués pour régler l'armistice sur les lieux.

La Sublime Porte donnera immédiatement, de son côté, les instructions nécessaires aux Commandants des troupes Impériales, et les délégués des Puissances auront à s'entendre avec eux, ainsi qu'avec les chefs militaires des deux Principautés, sur les détails pratiques, en tenant compte des exigences stratégiques et de la nécessité de ne point laisser réoccuper par les Serbes les points qui sont actuellement en la possession des armées Ottomanes.

Pleine de confiance dans les sentiments de haute équité des Puissances Médiatrices, la Sublime Porte aime à croire, en outre, qu'elles voudront prendre des mesures efficaces et immédiates pour empêcher, dans l'intervalle, l'introduction d'armes et de munitions de guerre dans les Principautés et pour mettre définitivement un terme à l'affluence des volontaires qui viennent du dehors pour prendre une part active à la lutte. Il y a là un fait anormal qui alarme l'opinion publique en même temps qu'il cause au Gouvernement Impérial les plus graves préjudices. Sa continuation amènerait infailliblement des complications sérieuses et rendrait inutiles les efforts pacifiques que l'on a en vue de seconder.

Le Gouvernement Impérial est en même temps persuadé que les Puissances Médiatrices, en faisant comprendre aux deux Principautés la nécessité de respecter religieusement dans l'avenir les obligations imposées par l'armistice, sauront les détourner de toute tentative qui aurait pour effet d'encourager directement ou indirectement les mouvements insurrectionnels dans les provinces limitrophes et de fournir des secours aux insurgés.

En précisant ainsi sa pensée, la Sublime Porte espère avoir donné aux Puissances Médiatrices une preuve de plus de son désir d'entourer l'armistice qu'elle vient d'accepter de toutes les garanties qui sont indispensables pour la réalisation des intentions amicales qui en ont déterminé la conclusion. Elle conserve l'assurance que, s'inspirant toujours des mêmes sentiments de sollicitude pour tout ce qui tient à l'honneur, à la dignité, et à l'indépendence de l'Empire, les Puissances sauront mettre de côté tout ce qui pourrait soulever des obstacles à l'œuvre si désirée de la pacification définitive.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, October* 12, 1876.

THE Sublime Porte has carefully considered the proposal advanced by the Mediating Powers for the conclusion of a regular armistice, with the object of bringing about a suspension of hostilities with Servia and Montenegro.

On the 14th September the Sublime Porte communicated to the friendly Governments the reasons which, when the limits to which the question of peace was confined were taken into account, rendered the conclusion of a regular armistice unnecessary.

In now considering the proposal made by the Powers for the restoration of peace with Servia and Montenegro, on the basis of the *statu quo ante*, the Imperial Government professes its entire willingness to accept the decision of the Powers as to the conditions it has proposed in the aforesaid communication, and has no hesitation in consenting to the conclusion of a regular armistice.

It must, however, be acknowledged that, in view of the approach of the bad season, there is good reason for prolonging the duration of the armistice beyond the minimum asked by the Powers. The Sublime Porte is therefore of opinion that the duration of the armistice should be six months, beginning on October 1, and ending on March 31 (o.s.).

A speedy commencement of the suspension of hostilities is now completely in the power of the Mediating Powers, as it rests with them to appoint, without loss of time, their delegates to arrange the terms of the armistice on the spot.

The Sublime Porte on its side will at once give the necessary instructions to the Commanders of the Imperial troops, and it will be necessary for the delegates appointed by the Powers to come to an understanding with them and with the Commanders of the armies of the two Principalities on the practical details, taking into account the strategical requirements of the case, and the necessity that exists for not allowing the Servians to re-occupy the positions now in the hands of the Ottoman troops.

The Sublime Porte has entire confidence in the feelings of perfect justice entertained by the Mediating Powers, and feels no doubt that effective measures will at once be taken to stop the introduction of arms and munitions of war into the Principalities; and, once for all, to check the influx of volunteers who continue to arrive from abroad to take an active part in the struggle. This most exceptional state of things disquiets

public opinion, and is most prejudicial to the cause of the Imperial Government. Were this to continue, serious complications must infallibly be the result, and those efforts for securing peace, which we are desirous of supporting, would be rendered useless.

The Imperial Government also feels convinced that the Mediating Powers, while impressing upon the two Principalities the necessity for loyally respecting for the future the duties imposed on them by the existence of an armistice, will dissuade them from a line of conduct which results in giving direct or indirect encouragement to insurrectionary movements in the neighbouring provinces, and in furnishing help to the insurgents.

The Sublime Porte, in thus specifying its views, trusts that it has once more given the Mediating Powers clear proof of the desire it feels to add to the armistice it has just accepted every guarantee which may be necessary for the full realization of the friendly intentions which have induced the Porte to agree to its conclusion. It holds to the conviction that the Powers will continue to entertain their former feelings of interest for all that relates to the honour, dignity, and independence of the Empire, and will have nothing to say to anything that may throw any obstacles in the way of that most desirable result—a definitive pacification.

Agree, &c.
(Signed) SAFVET.

No. 731.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 12, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of an official note sent to me by the Porte for communication to Her Majesty's Government, setting forth the reforms in the administration which are immediately to be carried out.

The creation of a Senate and of a Representative Assembly in the Capital is certainly a startling innovation in this country, and many doubts will be entertained as to the manner in which such institutions are likely to work, but there cannot be much doubt that they will act as a useful control upon the irresponsible action of the different Departments of the State which has hitherto prevailed.

The organization of the Provisional Administration is, however, the part of the scheme upon which the prosperity and future condition of the population will mainly depend.

In endeavouring to apply a new organization to the whole Empire instead of granting exceptional privileges only to such Provinces as have risen in insurrection, I am convinced that the Porte adopts the only course that could be followed with safety, and without the certainty of giving rise to fresh movements in the less privileged Provinces, and of increasing the strong animosity already existing between the rival Christian races.

I am also strongly of opinion, in common, I believe, with most of those persons who have bestowed attention on the subject, that the extension and real application of the Law of the Vilayets will offer a better prospect than any other scheme that has been proposed of leading to a better Provincial Administration, and to the improvement of the condition of the people.

This is stated to be the present aim of the Government, which, by a new law, proposes to insure the execution of the Law of the Vilayets with a large extension of the rights of election, and by the adoption of the practical reforms which were suggested for Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

Elective General Councils will have the duty of watching over the execution of the laws, which during the time that they are not sitting, will devolve on elective "Conseils d'Administration," which will control the authorities, and check arbitrary proceedings on their part.

Other measures are also announced, for putting an end to the constant changes of the public functionaries, for improving the system of levying the taxes, for developing the municipalities and making over to them a portion of the public revenues, and for the reorganization of the police.

If these last-named measures are carried out, a great and undoubted relief to the people may be expected from them.

I will not follow the note through the recapitulation of what had been promised in the note of the 13th of February last, but I may state that the organisation which it is

proposed to give to the Provinces confers upon them, to as large an extent as is probably practicable, the control over the local authorities, and even the management of their own affairs, which was demanded by your Lordship's proposals in favour of the insurgent Provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 731.

Safvet Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 12 *Octobre,* 1876.

LA première pensée de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, mon auguste Maître, en montant sur le Trône de ses glorieux ancêtres, a été d'inaugurer dans le système général du Gouvernement de l'Empire, ainsi que dans l'administration des provinces, une série de réformes de nature à satisfaire aux besoins des populations et à répondre aux exigences de l'époque.

Expression fidèle de la volonté Souveraine, le Hatt, promulgué immédiatement après le nouveau règne, en signalant les lacunes du passé, indiquait que la réforme à accomplir devait avoir pour but de faire cesser le pouvoir arbitraire des Agents de l'Administration et de fermer ainsi la porte aux abus.

Cette pensée est déjà en voie d'être réalisée, et le Gouvernement Impérial s'estime heureux de pouvoir annoncer dès aujourd'hui les mesures qui viennent d'être arrêtées et décrétées dans cet ordre d'idées. Résultat de cette même sollicitude bienveillante qui, il y a vingt ans, inspira les réformes dont toute l'Europe avait constaté la haute valeur, elles répondent pleinement aux vœux exprimés par les Puissances amies et alliées de la Sublime Porte. Elles présentent ce même caractère de spontanéité et d'indépendance qui avait été constaté dans l'acte solennel qui règle encore la situation en Orient.

Il y a dix ans l'organisation donnée au vilayets vint consacrer pour la première fois le principe de la participation de la population aux affaires publiques, des Conseils Administratifs composés des habitants de toutes les classes furent institués aux chefs-lieux des vilayets et des leurs dépendances ; le contrôle des actes des fonctionnaires publics et le jugement de ceux d'entre eux qui méconnaîtraient leurs devoirs faisaient partie intégrante des attributions essentielles de ces Conseils. La même loi décrétait la convocation au chef-lieu de chaque vilayet d'un Conseil-Général élu également par le vote populaire ; la session annuelle de cette Assemblée était fixée à quarante jours, et consacrée à la discussion de toutes les questions ayant trait à l'amélioration de l'état général de la province ; quant aux résolutions adoptées, le Conseil Général jouissait de la faculté de les soumettre à la Sublime Porte par l'entremise de délégués par lui désignés.

Malheureusement ces mesures, excellentes en elles-mêmes, si elles ont pu prévenir beaucoup de mal, n'ont pu produire tout le bien qu'on aurait été en droit d'en attendre si elles avaient été pleinement appliquées, et si sur plusieurs points elles n'avaient rencontré des obstacles insurmontables dans les dispositions qui caractérisaient alors le régime déchu. L'instabilité à laquelle les fonctions publiques se sont vues un moment en butte ne tarda pas à prouver d'un autre côté que l'état de malaise général dont toutes les provinces de l'Empire se sont, il faut bien le reconnaître, ressenties plus ou moins, tenait aussi essentiellement aux conditions mêmes de l'administration centrale.

Le remède aux imperfections existantes devrait être évidemment cherché dans la création d'un organisme nouveau qui en retenant du passé tout ce dont l'expérience avait constaté d'efficacité, permettrait de placer au centre même un système en harmonie avec les institutions provinciales et capable de donner à celles-ci l'essor et le développement auxquels elles sont appelées. C'est cette pensée qui a dominé le nouveau travail de réorganisation tel qu'il a été arrêté en Conseil Extraordinaire et sanctionné par Sa Majesté Impériale.

Une Assemblée Générale composée de membres élus par les habitants des vilayets et de la capitale, sera convoquée à Constantinople. Cette Assemblée, dont la session annuelle sera de trois mois, aura pour mandat de voter les lois, les impôts et les budgets de l'Empire.

Une autre Assemblée, dont les membres seront nommés par l'Etat, sera investie dans les limites restreintes et bien définies des attributions d'un Sénat.

Les détails relatifs à la constitution de ces deux grands corps d'Etat seront réglés par une loi spéciale qui est en voie d'élaboration.

L'organisation de l'Administration des Provinces marchera de paire avec celle des autorités placées au centre. Elle puisera ses principes dans les institutions des Etats les mieux partagés sous ce rapport. La nouvelle loi y relative assurera l'exécution de tout ce qui se trouve actuellement dans la Loi des Vilayets, en étendant dans une large mesure le droit d'élection, et comprendra en même temps les réformes pratiques qu'on aurait voulu voir introduites dans les provinces de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine. En même temps qu'elle sauvegardera les intérêts de chaque province, elle servira de fondement à tout l'édifice gouvernemental.

Les Conseils Généraux des Provinces auront le droit de veiller à l'exécution des lois et des règlements ; mais afin de ne pas laisser le pouvoir exécutif sans contrôle dans l'intervalle des différentes sessions, cette tâche sera dévolu aux Conseils d'Administration qui, comme j'ai eu l'honneur de le dire plus haut, tirent leur origine de l'élection populaire. Ils auront à expédier les affaires qui rentrent dans les attributions des Conseils Généraux et à surveiller les agents de l'administration locale de manière à ce qu'ils ne s'écartent pas des dispositions des lois et des règlements et ne se laissent point entraîner à des actes arbitraires.

Indépendamment des amendements que la Loi des Vilayets subira dans ce sens et qui en feront une nouvelle œuvre, une série de mesures non moins importantes a fait l'objet des délibérations les plus sérieuses. Il s'agit d'assurer la stabilité aux fonctions publiques : de les confier à des mains compétentes, conformément aux dispositions expresses du Hatt Impérial, d'améliorer le mode d'assiette et de perception des impôts tant à Constantinople que dans les Provinces ; d'imprimer aux cercles municipaux tout le développement qu'ils comportent ; de leur affecter une partie des revenus publics ; de réorganiser la police ; de réaliser d'autres objets subsidiaires ; en un mot, de faire passer dans le domaine des faits et de la réalité tous les progrès que peut procurer une organisation provinciale aussi complète que possible.

Par ce qui précède votre Excellence sera à même d'apprécier combien est large et compréhensif le point de vue auquel le Gouvernement Impérial s'est placé en édictant les nouvelles réformes. Pour s'en convaincre il suffirait d'ailleurs de se reporter au contenu de la note du Gouvernement Impérial en date du 13 Février, 1876, relative aux Provinces de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine.

Le premier point avait trait à la liberté des cultes. Or, indépendamment des ordres et des Firmans Impériaux qui assurent la pleine et entière jouissance de cette liberté, il est évident que les Conseils Généraux et les Conseils Administratifs de ces deux Provinces, une fois en possession de leurs attributions, sauront écarter tout obstacle, s'il en existe, à ce que tous les habitants de ces provinces soient placés sous ce rapport sur le pied d'une égalité parfaite.

Le second point se rattachait à l'amélioration du régime de la propriété foncière. Mais le droit de posséder des immeubles de toute nature étant aujourd'hui assuré non seulement à tous les sujets Ottomans mais aussi aux étrangers dans toute l'étendue de l'Empire, la clause spéciale à la Bosnie et à l'Herzégovine ne saurait avoir quelque utilité qu'en ce qui concerne des abus locaux, qu'il dépendra entièrement de ces mêmes Conseils de faire disparaître s'ils existent.

La suppression du système de l'affermage des dîmes confirmée par l'expérience des deux dernières années est déjà un fait acquis. L'affectation d'une partie des revenus publics aux besoins locaux sera réalisée par la mise à exécution du nouveau plan d'organisation des municipalités dans toutes les Provinces.

Quant à l'entretien des victimes de l'insurrection, et à la reconstruction de leurs habitations, cette question ayant un caractère à la fois spécial et exceptionnel pour les deux Provinces sus-mentionnées et les instructions y relatives ayant été déjà transmises aux autorités locales, il sera procédé sans retard à leur exécution aussitôt que les réfugiés commenceront à rentrer dans leurs foyers.

Les Conseils d'Administration des Provinces composés ainsi de manière à renfermer dans leur sein les éléments d'une représentation permanente de la population, rempliront d'ailleurs, par la nature même de leurs attributions, les fonctions qui avaient été dévolues extraordinairement aux Commissions dites d'exécution pour les Provinces de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine.

Ramenées à un même principe supérieur, les différentes réformes arrêtées par le Gouvernement Impérial se trouvent ainsi co-ordonnées en un tout homogène. Le fonctionnement de la nouvelle loi sur l'organisation des Provinces et qui fait une part si large aux Conseils Locaux, au lieu de constituer des priviléges d'exception, au lieu de provoquer chez les uns des espérances fallacieuses, chez les autres des découragements

mmérités, au lieu d'accentuer par là les divisions déjà si regrettables entre les différentes classes des sujets d'un même Empire, et d'augmenter les embarras et les difficultés, donne partout satisfaction aux besoins généralement sentis d'une amélioration radicale et offrent aussi des garanties suffisantes de bonne administration.

En notifiant à votre Excellence les nouvelles institutions dont Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan vient de doter l'Empire, je la prie de les porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, et d'agréer, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, October* 12, 1876.

THE first thought of my august master, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, on ascending the throne of his ancestors, was to inaugurate, both in the general system of the government of the Empire and in the local administration of the provinces, reforms, calculated to satisfy the requirements of the population, and to answer to the needs of the age.

The Hatt promulgated at the very commencement of the new reign, faithfully expressed the will of the Sovereign; it drew attention to what had been left undone in past time, and pointed out that the object of the reforms that were to be put into execution was to put a stop to the arbitrary powers exercised by the agents of the Government, and thus to preclude every abuse.

This intention will shortly be put into execution, and the Imperial Government is glad to be able now to announce the measures determined on for this purpose. They are the result of the same feelings of goodwill and anxiety for the welfare of its subjects from which sprang, twenty years ago, those reforms on the great value of which all Europe is agreed. These measures entirely comply with the wishes expressed by friendly Powers in alliance with the Sublime Porte. They bear the same character of independence as that which stamps the solemn decree which is still the law applied to affairs in the East.

Ten years ago the local organization given to the vilayets sanctioned, for the first time, the participation of the people at large in public affairs. Administrative Councils, composed of the inhabitants of all classes, were established in the chief towns of the vilayets and surrounding districts. Control over the acts of public officers, and the trial of those of them who neglected their duty, formed an essential part of the powers of these councils. By the same law it was ordered that a General Council, also elected by the votes of the people, should assemble in the chief towns of each vilayet; the yearly session of this Assembly was to last forty days, and was to be devoted to the discussion of every question relating to the improvement of the general condition of the province. The General Council had the power of laying the resolutions come to before the Sublime Porte by the agency of delegates of its appointment.

Unhappily these measures, though excellent in themselves, and though they have prevented the occurrence of much evil, have not produced all the good that might have been reasonably expected, had they been carried out to their full extent, and if on some points they had not encountered insuperable obstacles from the feelings characteristic of the system which has been overthrown. The liability to removal, to which public officers were at one time exposed, soon showed that the state of uneasiness generally prevailing throughout the Empire proceeded from the very nature of the Central Government.

The remedy for existing defects must evidently be sought for in the creation of a new organization, which, while retaining all that experience has shown to be efficacious in the one that existed previously, will allow of the establishment at the very seat of government of a system in harmony with local institutions, and which will impart to the latter the development of which they stand in need. It is this idea that has inspired the new re-organization in the shape determined on by an Extraordinary Council, and sanctioned by His Imperial Majesty.

A General Assembly, composed of members elected by the inhabitants of the vilayets and of the capital, shall be summoned to meet at Constantinople. This Assembly shall hold an annual session of three months, and its duties shall be to vote the laws, taxes and budget of the Empire.

A second Assembly, the members of which shall be nominated by the State, will be invested with the limited and accurately defined powers of a Senate.

The details of the constitution of these two important institutions, will be regulated by a law now being determined on.

The organization of the provincial administration will be decided at the same time as that of the central authorities. Its principles will be taken from the institutions of the States best regulated on this point. The new law relating thereto will secure the execution

of all that is actually contained in the Law of the Vilayets, and will extend in a great degree the right of election, and comprise, at the same time, the practical reforms that are to be carried out in the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. While guaranteeing the interests of each province, it will serve as a foundation to the whole fabric of Government.

The General Councils of the provinces will have the right of seeing that the laws and decrees are put into execution, but in order that the executive power may not be left uncontrolled during the intervals between the sessions, this task will devolve on the Administrative Councils, which, as I have had the honour to state above, rest on the basis of popular election. It will be their duty to transact the business which may fall within the functions of the General Councils, and to watch over the agents of the local authorities, to see that they respect the law, and do not permit themselves to commit arbitrary acts.

Besides the amendments which will be introduced into the Law of the Vilayets, and which will render it quite a new institution, a series of no less important measures has been the subject of most serious deliberations.

Permanence in office must be secured to public functionaries, duties must be entrusted to competent persons, in conformity with what is strictly laid down in the Imperial Hatt. The manner of assessing and levying the taxes, both at Constantinople and in the provinces, must be improved, the powers of the town councils must be enlarged as much as possible, a portion of the public revenue must be assigned to their use; the police must be reorganised, and other subsidiary matters must be attended to; in a word, we must realize and secure all the advantages that are to be derived by a provincial organisation as complete as possible.

From the preceding your Excellency will be in a position to appreciate the vast extent of the new reforms now decreed by the Imperial Government. If any proof of this were needed, a reference to the note of the Imperial Government, dated February 13, 1876, relative to Bosnia and Herzegovina, would be sufficient.

The first point related to freedom of worship. Now, not to mention the orders and Imperial Firmans securing full and complete enjoyment of this liberty, it is evident that the General and Administrative Councils of these two provinces, when once in full possession of their powers, will remove every obstacle, if any such exist, to the full enjoyment by the inhabitants of these provinces of perfect equality on this head.

The second point referred to the improvement of the system of land tenure. But, inasmuch as at the present day the right of possessing real estate is secured, not only to all Ottoman subjects, but also to foreigners, throughout the Empire, the special clause relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina can be of no use, save in what concerns local abuses, which it will be entirely in the power of these same local councils to do away with if any such really exist.

The suppression of the system of farming the taxes, confirmed by the experience of the last two years, is now completed. The assignment of a part of the public revenue to the wants of the district will be secured by putting into execution the new plan of municipal organization throughout the provinces.

As to the support of the victims of the insurrection, and the reconstruction of their dwellings, this question has an exceptional character in the two provinces above mentioned, and instructions relating thereto have been sent to the local authorities: they will be carried out so soon as the fugitives begin to return to their homes.

The Administrative and Provincial Councils being thus composed so as to contain the elements of a permanent representation of the population, will besides, by the very nature of their powers, discharge the duties which had temporarily fallen to the so-called Commissions of Execution for the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The different reforms decreed by the Imperial Government, when reduced under one leading principle, are thus co-ordinate in one homogeneous whole. The working of the new law on provincial organization, which gives such large powers to the local councils, instead of granting exceptional privileges, instead of arousing fallacious hopes in the hearts of some and causing uncalled-for despondency in those of others, instead of giving prominence to the divisions among the subjects of one Empire, which even now cause so much regret, and increasing our difficulties, will completely supply the need generally felt for a thorough improvement, and offer sufficient guarantees for a good administration.

In notifying to your Excellency the new institutions granted to the Empire by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, I request you to communicate them to the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, and to accept, &c.

(Signed) SAFVET.

No. 732.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 13, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Rustchuk and Galatz, in answer to my inquiries respecting the alleged outrages committed by Turks in the Dobrudscha and in other parts of Bulgaria.

I would call your Lordship's particular attention to that part of Mr. Reade's despatch in which he states that the "expected massacres" will only occur if the Mussulmans are given reason to believe that they are to be turned out of Europe.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 732.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, October* 5, 1876.

WHEN I had the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 19th ultimo, transmitting, for a Report from me, two memorandums communicated to your Excellency, of alleged outrages by Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians in the Dobrudja and other parts of Bulgaria, a gentleman of great experience in this vilayet, and particularly in the Dobrudja, informed me that he was going to the Dobrudja, and would make every inquiry for me respecting the memorandum relating to that district, and as several Bulgarians of good standing here daily expected from the vicinity of the parts which the other memorandum related to, I thought it better to wait and avail myself of these circumstances.

In the meantime I made inquiries amongst my colleagues and others who have weekly communication with those districts.

The gentleman above-mentioned having returned from the Dobrudja, and the Bulgarians expected from the other districts having arrived, I am now enabled to furnish your Excellency with the result of my inquiries.

First, with regard to the Dobrudja, I am informed by all those I have mentioned that the statements in the memorandum relating thereto they consider to be at variance with the truth. Several cases of violence have occurred there, but in conflicts with brigands and robbers, such as may occur in many other parts of Turkey. No one of them has heard of violation of women or burning of villages, nor that any girls have been publicly offered for sale in the Dobrudja, and several of my colleagues inform me that if what are now termed "atrocities" had occurred, they certainly would have heard of them from their subordinates there.

The British Vice-Consuls in the district have been directed to instantly report to me any such occurrences; they have never done so, and consequently I can assert that the memorandum must be a fabrication.

I must, however, state that the Dobrudja at this moment is lamentably short of police and military, and that consequently the public security is very unsatisfactory; but this also applies to almost all the rest of the vilayet, as I have already had the honour to report to your Excellency.

Respecting what is alleged as having occurred at Kizil Murad, in the district of Rasgrad, this also is at variance with facts. One or two disputes and consequent conflicts have taken place, in which several persons have been killed; but these were not of the "atrocity" class, but attributable to the fanatical negligence and weak position of the authorities, from the small number of police at their disposal.

With regard to the other Memorandum, Gagaha is only about an hour's distance from this. I have been there, and have only learnt that some months ago a quarrel occurred between two peasants, in which one was wounded, and the aggressor arrested.

As regards the alleged frequent robberies, this I believe to be true, and is attributable to the negligence of the authorities and the inefficiency of the police; and from what I constantly hear, it is certainly high time for the Porte to press the Vali here on the subject. If this were done, and he held responsible, we should soon hear of a state of things different to what at present exists in this vilayet.

There are, moreover, armed Circassians still moving about the country. I have seen several myself.

The "expected massacres" will only take place if the Mussulmans are afforded reason to believe that they are to be turned out of Europe. To talk or write openly in this sense is therefore to place in great risk the lives of all the Christians in the interior of Turkey; for the Mussulmans are all on the *qui vive*, and anxiously seek for information on the subject. Even a foreign occupation of any part of Turkey would have to be well considered, so as not to place the Christians of the interior in danger.

Respecting the war requisition, I had the honour to report to your Excellency on the subject in my despatch of the 20th ultimo.

As to Blaque Bey and Ivantcho Effendi, as they did not reach this vilayet, I am unable to say anything respecting their mission.

Some Bulgarians of good standing from the vicinity of Etropole state that they never heard of what is alleged in the second Memorandum respecting the families of Savoff and Peyoff of that place, and that if it had been true they would certainly have heard of it.

Respecting the unfortunate man who was hanged here, and whose rope broke three times, I had the honour to inform your Excellency thereof in my despatch No. 34 of 11th August last.

Statements respecting Bulgaria similar to those of the two Memorandums in question are often to be heard of in Wallachia, Servia, and other parts around us, but not in this vilayet, where people know the real truth. Such statements form one of the means by which the "Comité de Charité Bulgare" at Bucharest manage to keep up the supply of funds from abroad, where all is believed, and which enables them to pass their time in the lowest haunts of Bucharest, which is far more their object than the welfare of their countrymen.

But what the Bulgarian Christians in general have good reason to complain of, as I have several times had the honour to report to your Excellency, are the gross acts of injustice and oppression committed daily by almost every Tribunal in Bulgaria, in which no justice whatever can be obtained except by means of high exterior influence or by bribery, and this is done in the most barefaced manner.

The open acts of tyranny and oppression of the chiefs of police, municipality, and such other authorities in power, that are also of daily occurrence, are alone sufficient to goad any people into revolt. This is bad enough in the towns, but even worse, if anything, in the country districts, where highway robbery and burglary are consequently of common occurrence; and particularly at the present moment, when the police and military forces have been so much reduced from the necessities of the war; and there is no doubt that, if anything, this system is more prevalent here than in most parts of Turkey, which is attributed to the pusillanimity of the Bulgarian character.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 732.

Consul Sanderson to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Galatz, October* 6, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report that in accordance with your Excellency's instructions I left Constantinople on the 25th September for Toultcha, with the view of reporting upon the condition of Prislaw and other villages in the Dobrudscha, in which it was alleged that excesses had been committed by the Turks.

At Kustendje, where the steamer stopped for about an hour, I was informed that there had been no report of disturbances of a grave character in the neighbourhood.

I arrived at Toultcha on the 27th of September. The Governor stated that the district was quite quiet, but he offered to place a steamer at my disposal, so that I might visit any place on the Danube, and said that an escort of zaptiehs should be ready to accompany me at any time. I declined this offer with thanks, stating that I preferred to proceed with an interpreter only.

The town appeared perfectly quiet, but it appears that about the middle of June, when the regular troops were ordered to proceed to the front, the then Governor called up the Circassians, of whom a body of 800 were collected to guard the line between Toultcha and Isaktcha. The presence of these troops led to great excitement in the town, many of the inhabitants burying their goods, &c., but it does not appear that they did any mischief in Toultcha. Remonstrances were made by the Consular body, and after ten days they were disbanded, but being dissatisfied they appear to have committed

several robberies in villages on the way to their homes. In the immediate neighbourhood of Toultcha there were no cases reported of murder or arson, and the rumours that were current of the abduction of females were proved to be without foundation.

I obtained the services of Mr. Fritz Weikum, who is well acquainted with Bulgarian, Turkish and other languages, and on the 28th September visited the villages of Malkotch, Prislaw, Pirlita, Karasovatch, Beshtépé, Uralika, and Sarigiol. There were no signs of any disturbances, the sheep and cattle were out on the pastures and the corn was being threshed. At Malkotch, a German village, there appears to have been an alarm in June last of an attack by Circassians; the Governor offered them assistance from Toultcha, which they declined; they formed a guard of their own, and were not attacked. In most of these villages they had lost cattle, but this they said occurred every year.

Having ascertained that the villages mentioned in my instructions were mostly to be found under different names in the Balkan region between Schumla and Slivna, I telegraphed on the 29th for instructions, and on the following day received your Excellency's reply.

On the 30th September, accompanied by the interpreter of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," whose services the Commander had kindly placed at my disposal, I went through the villages of Kataleui, Dalband, Chilik, Tilitza, and Fricatzé. With the exception of Kataleui all these villages had been visited in the month of June by a band of about fifty Circassians.

At Dalband they appear to have broken into all the houses under the pretence of searching for arms, and to have stolen everything they could find, they beat several of the men and took fourteen of them prisoners to Babadagh, but these men were released after a few days; five guns were taken away, of which one only had been returned. A complaint was made to the authorities at Toultcha, but as the complainants stated that they could not identify the robbers nothing was done. A man of the name of Safir Daum was attacked in the forest in broad daylight and robbed of his coat and passport; this man states that he could identify his assailants, but is afraid to make a complaint, as the Circassian village of Poshta is not far off. The village is now quiet, but the men say that they are afraid to send into the forest to cut wood, as there are a number of Circassians there; and as the winter is approaching this is a serious matter for them.

The village of Tilitza and the Bulgarian portion of Fricatzé appear to have been robbed much in the same manner as Dalband, but at Fricatzé of the arms taken away, seven fowling-pieces appear to have returned since, none of the pistols however.

At Chilik there is a Russian convent; when the Circassians presented themselves here they demanded arms, threatening to break open all the doors; but being met by a sergeant who was in charge of a small Turkish guard, they went away without doing any harm.

There was formerly a guard of twelve or fourteen men at this convent, but this was first reduced and afterwards taken away altogether. On the night previous to my arrival two horses had been stolen from the convent, and some men with carts returning from Toultcha, having sold their grain, were attacked and robbed of 400 piastres. A complaint was made and one zaptieh was sent out to the convent with the promise that more should be sent when they could be spared. One man was arrested in Poshta, and as in all probability he could be identified, it was considered certain that he would be punished.

The requisitions for carts and bullocks for the war have been on a moderate scale, about three months ago every group of villages, the number varying from three to eight, had to furnish one pair of bullocks and a cart, and they had just been called upon to supply another with, in this instance, a man to take charge. The Turks paid their share equally with the Christians.

The complaints in these cases seem to be entirely against the Circassians, who are always stealing when they get a chance and who have an organized system of passing on stolen cattle from village to village, which renders recovery almost impossible. In the month of June there is no doubt they were under strong religious excitement, and the villagers state that they are now afraid of being attacked by them in the event of unfavourable news being received from the seat of war, but I saw no signs in any case of houses having been burnt; nor could I hear of any one having been killed in these villages, and had such been the case I think I must have heard of it, as I was accompanied only by an interpreter, and no conversation on these subjects was carried on in the presence of a Turk.

On the 4th October I visited a place called Iglitza, about ten miles south of Matschin, where there is a large farm held by M. More, a Frenchman. This gentleman informed me that in the month of June he had been visited by a body of Circassians,

that they remained hanging about for some time, and he believed that they had every intention of killing him, that they had cut to pieces two of his shepherds and another of his employés; that he had drawn up a report of the whole of the circumstances for the French Vice-Consul at Toultcha, and that he would, in a day or two, let me have a copy of this report, which I propose to forward to your Excellency when received.

I shall in the meantime endeavour to ascertain whether the statements may be fully relied on; the country appeared quiet, and there is a Turkish guard quite close.

I beg to inclose a statement of the expenses incurred, the reimbursement of which I trust your Excellency will be pleased to sanction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 733.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of despatches from Mr. Baring and from Mr. Calvert respecting the state of affairs in the district of Philippopoli and the proceedings of the Turkish Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 733.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, October 5. 1876.*

ON the 27th ultimo I had the honour to report to your Excellency from Tartar-Bazardjik that I intended joining the Commission at Peshtera on the following morning.

This I accordingly did, but found on my arrival that the Commission intended returning to Bazardjik that evening by way of Biga.

During the few hours I was at Peshtera I conversed with all the members of the Commission, and was informed that wonderfully good relations existed between Mussulmans and Christians; further, that the insurrection at Batak had been a most formidable affair, and that, had it not been for the prompt action of Achmet Agha, the consequences would have been most serious, that the inhabitants of Batak showed a strange perverseness in not aiding the authorities in rebuilding houses, &c.; that the real reason why the Bulgarians feared to move about the country was that, knowing themselves to be guilty of all sorts of excesses, they shrank from meeting their Mussulman neighbours.

The first of these statements is one of the most audacious I have ever heard, and, subsequently, I think, even the Mussulman members of the Commission have had some reason to modify their opinions on this subject.

In my despatch to your Excellency of the 26th ultimo I reported that no improvement had taken place in the condition of the Bulgarians, and what I have since seen and heard confirm me in that opinion.

I will cite a few examples in support of what I say.

Nenko Tartaroff was murdered a very short time ago at Streldja by Hussein Bairam and Suleyman Hadji Ibrahim, both of that village.

The women of Streldja are afraid to go to their fields, as the Turks violate and ill-treat them.

A man named Rashko sent his son there to work on the harvest, but some Turks tried to violate both him and his mother and they were obliged to leave the place.

Some property having been stolen from an Albanian at Bellova, Daoud Tchavueh arrested two Bulgarians. He then seized two more, and beat them till they consented to give evidence against the other two.

At Kalogero on the 27th ultimo, a Mussulman gipsy beat a Bulgarian girl, who refused to do forced labour for him.

Ivan Kosmaroff and Elia Angeloff, of Bega, were threatened by Turks a few days ago for daring to ask for the restoration of stolen property, which was in the houses of the latter.

On the 28th ultimo the horse of George Stephan, of Vetren, was stolen, and his wife beaten by Circassians of Capoudjik.

On Sunday, at Dervent, I saw a man who had been wounded; at Sopot, the day

before yesterday, I saw an old man who had just been wounded in the head and robbed of what little he possessed by some Turks; and to-day I have seen three Bulgarians of Beuyuk Kouron-keui, who have been treated in a similar manner. The aggressors of these latter have, however, been arrested.

I will not trouble your Excellency with any more individual cases of this description, and will only say that nothing can possibly be worse than the condition of the Christians in this part of Turkey.

It is absurd to say that the insurrection at Batak was formidable, but even if it was it would not be an excuse for the massacre that took place. Three Turks are said to have been killed outside the village, but a certain Said Agha, who was there on business connected with the sale of tithes, when Achmet Agha arrived, and on whose evidence the Commission relies greatly to prove its case, was let go safe and sound, which shows that the inhabitants could not have been animated with any very bloodthirsty intentions against Mussulmans in general.

The Commission attaches great value to the evidence of some Turks and of some Bulgarians of another village, but they appear to treat with contempt that which is offered by inhabitants of Batak itself.

The Commission, moreover, seems to think that the survivors of the massacre should be as blithe and gay and ready to work as if no misfortune had befallen them; and, in spite of the example they have of Achmet Agha's, that they should put perfect trust in Turkish promises.

I do not wish to prejudge the case, but I cannot help thinking, from remarks which fall from the Mussulman members of the Commission, that they intend to absolve Achmet Agha from all guilt, as attempts are being made to show that he used all his efforts to restrain the Bashi-Bazouks.

Somebody will very likely be punished for the Batak affair, as not one member of the Commission dares deny that a horrible massacre of innocent persons took place, but I much fear that the leader will escape, though he, of course, is the person upon whom punishment should fall.

Ali Bey, one of the worst fanatics of Bazardjik, and a member of the Medjliss, is also, it is said, responsible for the slaughter of some of the victims. It is stated that after the massacre had lasted two days the Bashi-Bazouks took the survivors outside the village, and Achmet Agha sent a guard named Selim to Ali Bey, to ask what he should do with them; the answer was to kill the men, which accordingly was done, only two escaping.

I did not hear this story the last time I was in Bulgaria, but, if it is true, Ali Bey ought certainly to be brought to trial. This man is also guilty of other acts of oppression and pillage, and his nephew, Mehmet Ali, led the Bashi-Bazouks who plundered Bratzigovo after the inhabitants had given up their arms to Hassan Pasha.

Before returning to Philippopoli I naturally thought that the Commission would visit Otlou-keui, Avrat Alan, and some other villages in the Caza of Bazardjik; I was therefore greatly surprised to hear that it intended leaving Bazardjik on the 30th ultimo, and going straight through Philippopoli to Karlowo and Dervent.

Some of the members assured me that Otlou-keui would be visited later on, and I only trust that this may be true, as a Commission whose supposed object it is to inquire into the atrocities committed in this province, and which passed by in silence the barbarities of Hassan Pasha's troops would certainly not inspire confidence.

I accompanied the Commission to Karlowo on the 30th ultimo, and on the following day we proceeded to Dervent (Klissura).

In this village which, as your Excellency is aware, was totally burnt by the Bashi-Bazouks under Tossoun Bey, the Commission should have stayed at least one whole day, instead of which it stayed not quite three hours.

Only one deposition was regularly taken, viz., that of an old women.

What the other villagers said was never written down, but twelve names were taken, and the bearers will be examined here.

In this village the inhabitants certainly spoke out manfully, in spite of the presence of their authorities.

They did not deny having killed Mehmet Effendi and two zaptiés, nor that eighty men came from Avrat-Alan to induce them to rise, a man named Karadjoff having been the principal instigator.

They said they went to their fortifications, sending out scouts, who were to apprize them of the approach of the Bashi-Bazouks by firing pistol shots.

As soon as the Turks did appear they fled, after firing about half-a-dozen shots, and took to the mountains.

The Bashi-Bazouks found nobody in the village but old or infirm men, women, and little children. They spared no one, and the exact list of the killed, which had not been made out when I was at Dervent before, is as follows :—

Men	58
Women and children	192
Infants	30
Total	280

In my Report I had put the loss of life at 250.

The village was not burnt all at once, but after the Bashi-Bazouks had taken everything out of a house they set fire to it; the consequence was the burning went on for many days.

This, I think, sufficiently disposes of the Turkish story that the inhabitants burnt the place themselves.

One villager, Veli Oglou Dentcho, openly accused the Kiatib of the Mudir, Abdullah Effendi, of having robbed his wife of 18 Turkish pounds and 68 medjidiés.

The story having been proved beyond all doubt, Sadoullah Bey ordered the man's arrest.

The village authorities accused the inhabitants of apathy, inasmuch as they refused to go to the hills and cut wood to rebuild their houses.

This impudent statement produced a perfect burst of indignation from the villagers. They asked how they could go and work when, if they stirred outside the village, the first Turk that met them beat them, and took even their jackets, shoes, and cap.

After this Sadoullah Bey lectured the Bulgarians on their infamous conduct, and told them they had brought all their misfortunes on their own heads, but that the Government was merciful, and would overlook their shortcomings, and help them to rebuild their houses.

Up to the present moment these people have not received the slightest relief, and have only got back a very small portion of their lost cattle.

On our way up to Dervent, we met three armed Turks driving some oxen and goats, and on arriving at Dervent I discovered that one of these oxen had been recognized as belonging to the village when the Turks passed through. Some people went to claim the ox, but one of their number was severely wounded by a blow from a yataghan, and the marauders quietly continued their journey.

For all this massacre and pillage, Tossoun Bey is directly responsible, and the people of Dervent declare openly that he knows well enough where their property is at the present moment.

I have not any great hopes that the villagers will get much of their cattle restored to them, too long a time has elapsed since it was carried off, and a great deal of it has, of course, by this time changed hands.

It is true that I have had official lists shown me of thousands of head of sheep and oxen restored to their owners by Government, but I regret to say that all the villagers I have met tell me they only have got back an infinitesimal part of their lost cattle.

Thus Dervent possessed some 800 oxen, now it has 30.

In the villages, with the inhabitants of which I have had no communication, the case may, perhaps, be different; I judge from what comes actually under my notice.

In my report, I mentioned that a child belonging to Dervent had been carried off to a Turkish village; the mother informed me the other day that no attempt had been made to get it restored to her.

The Turkish villages which furnished the Bashi-Bazouks who attacked Dervent are all perfectly well known, and lie pretty close together. I feel sure, therefore, that if the authorities chose to make a real effort, they might get a great deal of the stolen property restored. The people of Dervent should be called upon to give in a return of what they have lost, and the houses of the Turks should then be searched, and any objects which excited the smallest suspicion immediately impounded.

I do not pretend that this in an easy task, but it is not impossible.

On Monday the 2nd instant, the Commission stayed at Karlowo and examined Christians, Mussulmans and Jews respecting the events of the insurrection and endeavoured to discover what stolen property there was in the place.

The Turks were introduced first, and the Khodja who acted as spokesman delivered a most magnificent oration, which had evidently been carefully prepared before.

He dwelt on the formidable character of the insurrection, on the atrocities committed by the Bulgarians; on the insolent messages sent by the insurgents to the Turks; on the

mild lamb-like character of all Bashi-Bazouks, and especially of those who had fought their country's battles at Dervent, and on the infamous falsehoods spread abroad respecting their deeds. They had not, he said, burnt a single house, carried off a piastre's worth of property, or raised their hands against an unarmed person. He finished his discourse with the following ominous phrase:—"Now that the insurrection is at an end, we bear the Bulgarians no ill-will; far from it, we wish to be as brothers with them. But we were asleep, we are now awake, and we will not be responsible for the consequences if the smallest movement were to take place (the expression he used was, 'Bis'tel kerelersa': if a hair were to break). We therefore pray the Government to take measures effectually to protect Mussulmans from any further aggression."

This last phrase probably refers to something that may have been said about disarming the Turks.

In what he said about the Mussulmans not being responsible for the future, we cannot but see a direct menace to the Christian population. "If a hair were to break," *i.e.* the slightest circumstance would set the province on fire again; of course, it depends upon what the Khodja would consider to be a "movement" on the part of the Bulgarians, he might consider a blow given by a Christian to a Turk, or even high words between them to be the signs of incipient revolt.

At any rate the presence of a man who could pronounce these inflammatory words in a mixed town is, in the present temper of the Mussulmans, most undesirable. If he spoke out in this violent way in the presence of Turkish officials from Constantinople it is not to be supposed that he was usually less menacing in his language when surrounded only by his fellow-townsmen, who, of course, more or less look upon him as an oracle.

He should be removed to the opposite end of the Empire without loss of time, as his presence is a danger to the rayahs, and in this opinion the Christian members of the Commission fully agree; I would, therefore, respectfully suggest to your Excellency that the Porte might be urged, without loss of time, to find him employment in some other quarter.

After the Khodja had spoken Tossoun Bey made a few remarks to the effect that there had been no massacre at Dervent, and that his losses amounted to four men wounded!

Other people say only one Bashi-Bazouk was shot in the leg. If one even takes Tossoun's estimate it proves that no real resistance was offered.

When the Turks left the room the Tchorbadjis were introduced.

They said that when Selami Pasha was at Karlowo with the Circassians, women were violated and other lawless acts committed, but the Commission have as yet taken no steps to inquire into these matters.

They said they had heard that waggon-loads of things had been brought from Dervent by the Bashi-Bazouks, and two Bulgarians, who had bought some of the stolen property, were examined.

Unfortunately, when the Bulgarians are examined fear usually, more or less, seals their lips, and it is difficult to elicit anything from them. The Turkish members of the Commission pretend to be surprised at this, though they must know perfectly well to what extent the Mussulmans terrorize the Christians.

On the 3rd instant the Commission stayed at Sopot (Altchek Kilissi), and spent the whole day inquiring into a case which I made known to it, and which is mentioned in my report, viz., the question of the money paid to Tossoun Bey to induce him to spare the village.

I think this case is now proved beyond all doubt, but I will not enter into it now as I shall have to refer to it at length when I have the honour to report Tossoun Bey's examination to your Excellency.

The Commission further visited the small mixed village of Keulleler, where a very bad feeling existed between Christians and Mussulmans, and returned to Philippopoli yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 733.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, October* 7, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to draw up, for your Excellency's information, the following précis of the regulations laid down by Sadoullah Bey in the formation and for the

guidance of the local Commissions appointed to superintend the reconstruction of the burnt villages in this sandjak.

The presidents of the Commissions to receive 50 piastres, and the members and secretaries 30 piastres per diem, dating from the day of their departure from Philippopoli till the end of their mission.

Each of the Commissioners to be accompanied by a police escort.

Suggestions of the Commissions, if practicable, to be immediately carried into execution by the nearest authorities.

Winter being imminent, the Commission will "in proper language" request the inhabitants—Christian and Mahommedan—of the neighbouring undestroyed villages to assist in the work of reconstruction by bringing down building material to the localities where it is needed.

The burnt-out people will be divided into three categories according to indications to be furnished by the elders or head-men of each village:—

1. Those who can pay the builders' wages.
2. Those who will be able to pay hereafter.
3. Those who cannot pay at all.

From the second category, guarantees (kefil) will be exacted; the third will have their dwellings rebuilt gratis.

The same rule to be followed with the people deprived of their cattle and agricultural stock.

Unfortunately the injunction to "request" the inhabitants of adjacent undestroyed villages to assist their necessitous neighbours, seems likely to inflict much hardship on communities that can ill bear it. For instance, the Christian inhabitants of Peshtera have sent to me to complain that they have been "ordered" by the authorities of Bazardjik to provide for the burnt village of Begha 4,800 beams of wood, which is at the rate of four beams per "noufouz," or male inhabitant, between one and seventy years of age.

It is true that the Mussulmans of Peshtera have received a similar requisition, but they are much better able to meet it, having enriched themselves by the plunder of their Christian neighbours, while the latter are only better off than the inhabitants of the burnt villages in the respect of having a roof over their heads.

All I could say to the deputation from Peshtera that came to me on this matter was to advise them to do their best to comply with the Government requisition and trust for indemnification to the aid now being organized at Constantinople under your Excellency's auspices.

As regards the general condition of the Christian peasantry, I regret to say that it is as deplorable as ever. One well-authenticated incident will give an idea of the universal manner in which the Mussulmans are armed. A Pomak child receiving the other day some real or imaginary offence from a Christian woman in a village near Peshtera drew a pistol and fired point blank at the woman, wounding her severely in the belly. Both the child and the woman are now in Philippopoli; the latter, under medical care, is in a precarious state; the former, a boy of eight or ten years, runs no risk of punishment, the law not providing any penalty for such youthful criminals.

A party of Christian peasants from Aladja-Ali, near Hasskeui, are now here about a grievance against the Moslems of the same village. It appears that for the last four months the Christian inhabitants have been forced to work without pay for their Osmanli neighbours; this fact is certified by a paper bearing the signatures of the five Mussulman tithe-collectors of the village.

I have spoken strongly to the authorities in regard to this case, and have moreover communicated the facts to Mr. Baring, who will also, I believe, exert his influence to obtain justice for the plaintiffs.

The arrival of a battalion of Asiatic troops from Sophia has certainly inspired the Christians of Philippopoli with an increased degree of confidence, but it will require a wider distribution of regular forces to insure the protection of life and property in the villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 734.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch from Mr. Baring in which he corrects some expressions in his general report on the occurrences in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 734.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, October* 8, 1876.

THERE is an expression in my Report which I want to correct, as I think otherwise it would mislead those who read it.

I have applied the word "foreign" to the emissaries and agitators who stirred up the revolt.

The principal men, such as Benkowsky, Vankoff, Haritou, and others, were all Bulgarians by birth, but had lived for many years in Roumania or Servia; it is true they came from abroad, but, as regards Bulgaria, they should not be called foreigners.

Among the leaders was a man who was known as "Odessali," but it is doubtful whether he was a Russian or only a Bulgarian settled at Odessa.

I never intended in my Report to convey the impression that *bonâ fide* foreigners took an active part in the revolt, but I quite understand that the expression I used might lead people to suppose that such was my opinion, and I therefore hasten to correct it.

As regards the unfortunate schoolmistress of Otlou-keui, I believe my remarks have been thought to imply that I considered she had been subjected to no ill-usage. Nothing was further from my mind. I never supposed that any woman who fell into the hands of the savages who plundered Otlou-keui would escape without being brutally ill-treated.

Though when I was here before she denied having been violated, I hear she has now admitted the fact; and I am also told that the story I mentioned of her having offered herself for medical examination is not true. I had it on the authority of two respectable medical men of this town.

In the list I give of Bulgarian villages burnt in the Caza of Tatar-Bazardjik, I have mentioned Bega. I find now that this village is a mixed one, and contained sixty-one Christian and forty-three Turkish houses.

It has been totally burnt, the Bulgarians accusing the Turks, and the Turks the Bulgarians of the deed. It contained a church and a mosque, both of which are destroyed.

It is worth noting, as a proof of how much better off the Mussulmans are than the Christians, that whereas forty Turkish houses have been rebuilt, or are in course of reconstruction, not a single Christian house has been touched.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 735.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 22.)

(Extract.) *Paris, October* 21, 1876.

IN pursuance of a telegraphic instruction which I had the honour to receive from your Lordship last night, I communicated to the Duc Decazes this afternoon the decision of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the Russian demand that the armistice in Turkey shall not exceed a month or six weeks.

That decision was, I said, to the following effect:—

Her Majesty's Government having accepted the proposal of the Porte for an armistice of six months are not prepared to withdraw their acceptance or to make any new proposal. They will offer no objection to a shorter term if the Porte is willing to consent to it, but they cannot press the Porte to consent.

The Duc Decazes said that, for his own part, he had not sent any instructions to Constantinople in answer to the communication signifying the acceptance by the Porte of an armistice of five or six months.

He had, in consequence of the representation which I had made to him by your Lordship's order, sent telegraphic instructions to Belgrade and Cettigné in support of the six months' armistice. At Belgrade those instructions had not been acted upon in consequence of an understanding between the French and English Agents, who had agreed that it would be unadvisable to urge the acceptance of the six months' term in opposition to the advice given by Russia. At Cettigné the recommendation to agree to the proposal of the Porte had at first been favourably received by Prince Nicholas, although, ultimately, His Highness had not acted in conformity with it.

No. 736.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 22, 1876.

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to proceed to Livadia with as little delay as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 737.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 8, 1876.

SHORTLY after dinner yesterday evening, Prince Nicholas received a telegram announcing that fighting had been going on all day at Grahowatz, between his forces and the Turks under Moukhtar Pasha. The Montenegrin report alleges that the Turks attacked, but the fact appears to be that the entrenchments of the opposing forces are close to one another.

The Prince was informed that his own loss was thirty killed and seventy wounded; that 400 Turkish heads had been taken; and that the whole Turkish loss probably amounted to 800.

His Highness was visibly distressed at the intelligence of the recommencement of hostilities, and sent for a runner, who left Grahowatz two days ago, and whom he questioned in our presence on the positions of the two armies.

From the general depression noticeable to-day, my colleagues and I are inclined to believe that the Montenegrins have met with a reverse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

P.S.—Later reports received by the Prince estimate the Turkish loss at nearly 1,200, and give 44 Montenegrins and 12 Herzegovinians killed and about 100 wounded.

E. M.

No. 738.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 10, 1876.

THE situation of Prince Nicholas has for some days past been evidently such as to embarrass His Highness seriously, and his health and spirits have been considerably affected by the difficulties which surround him. He is, as I have pointed out, very anxious for immediate peace, partly because he believes what the Foreign Agents have told him, that the Great Powers are generally disposed to obtain good terms for Montenegro, and that this favourable disposition may be dissipated by the continuance of the war, and partly because he is, both by temperament and education, so far different from the majority of his subjects, that he cannot, as they do, regard fighting the Turks as a pastime, or as a

superior kind of field-sport. The Prince feels acutely the deaths of his mountaineers, many of whom are personally known to him. The wounds and scars at which they jest are abhorrent to him, and he has, as he has assured me, done his best to check their barbarous habit of mutilating the dead. He has also endeavoured to show that he is anxious to treat his enemies generously, and he is quite aware that these manifestations of moderation are distasteful to many of his advisers, and that there is much discontent at the idea that Montenegro is being played with, and that the pacific counsels of the foreign Agents have merely resulted in giving the Turks time to re-organize their demoralized forces, and in depriving the Montenegrins of an opportunity of profiting by previous success.

There is a general belief that the delay in concluding the armistice is caused by the fact that some one Power is not playing a straightforward game, and two of the foreign Agents have probably encouraged this idea by respectively accusing the country represented by the other of raising unnecessary obstacles to the conclusion of peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 739.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 23.)

(Extract.) *Cettigné, October* 12, 1876.

M. DURANDO, the Italian Agent, returned from Ragusa yesterday on telegraphic orders from his Government.

A couple of hours after his arrival he received from Rome and Constantinople simultaneously the welcome announcement that the Porte had consented to a regular armistice. Neither the Prince, nor any one of the foreign Agents, has as yet received any information on the subject.

No. 740.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 23.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 13, 1876.

M. CECCALDI has received this morning from the Duc Decazes instructions respecting the armistice. He went at once to Prince Nicholas; but, I am sorry to say, he tells me that His Highness showed considerable reserve, and declined giving any assurance that he would accept it; alleging that the duration proposed was excessive, and that the military position in Servia was so unfavourable to the Turks that the Porte had only consented in order to get her troops out of danger.

M. Ceccaldi says that he used every argument he could think of to elicit some positive promise of adhesion from the Prince, but was obliged to leave His Highness without succeeding.

The mail starts so early (at 11 A.M.) that I have no time to report at any greater length.

Although without instructions from your Lordship, I shall, of course, if I see the Prince, use my best efforts in support of my colleagues' advice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 741.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, October* 23.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, October* 10, 1876.

IN to day's "Pester Lloyd" their correspondent at Rustchuck writes on the 2nd instant, that the town had been in great excitement in consequence of the arrival of a ship of wounded Turkish soldiers, amongst whom were several who had been mutilated by the Servian soldiers, and that he himself had seen eight men whose noses, five men whose right ears, and three men whose left ears had been cut off, although these mutilated

wounded tried usually to escape observation for fear of being considered to have in a cowardly manner allowed themselves to come into the power of their Servian enemies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 742.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 23.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, October 13, 1876.*

OFFICERS, who have recently returned here from service in the regiments of observation on the Turkish frontier, seem to know nothing of scenes of impalement, as related by Canon Liddon and Mr. McColl; and a cadet, who was constantly on the patrol service from opposite Bjelina upwards, positively declares that no such impalement ever took place on the frontier line.

Although this tends to show that there must be some strange mistake in the evidently sincere statements of those two gentlemen, yet, on the other hand, it does not exclude the possibility of impalement having been inflicted during the insurrection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 743.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 23.)

(Extract.) *Buda-Pest, October 14, 1876.*

SERMED EFFENDI has related to me what he saw last night of the mode of forwarding a party of Russians from the railway station to the Belgrade steamer.

He saw a company of thirty soldiers, probably of the artillery, in part uniform, commanded by a sergeant and two corporals in full uniform. The sergeant showed a red-cross passport for his company, and M. Blumer, the Russian Consul-General, bought for them their tickets at a third of the usual price on the faith of that passport.

There were also in the party several Russians, who might be surgeons or officers, and some hospital nuns.

No. 744.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

My Lord, *Berlin, October 14, 1876.*

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram of last night I called at once on Herr von Bülow and told his Excellency that your Lordship had begged of the German Ambassador, and had now instructed me to press strongly on the German Government, the importance of the armistice being accepted by the Russian Government, which there was reason to apprehend they were disposed to refuse.

I pointed out to Herr von Bülow the danger to European peace the refusal of the Czar to adhere to the armistice offered by the Porte would involve, and how much the great influence of Germany could achieve at this important juncture.

Herr von Bülow promised me to communicate your Lordship's message at once to the Chancellor, who would submit it to the Emperor without loss of time.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 745.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

My Lord, *Berlin, October 19, 1876.*

I HAVE communicated to Herr von Bülow for Prince Bismarck's information the substance of your Lordship's despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Peters-

burgh recording the language which your Lordship used to Count Schouvaloff at the interview of the 14th instant.

His Excellency desired me to thank your Lordship in Prince Bismarck's name for this communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 746.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 23.)

My Lord, *Berlin, October* 20, 1876.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 17th instant, just received, asking me whether I am able to explain the apparent confusion with respect to the attitude of Prince Bismarck as regards the acceptance of the Turkish proposal for an armistice of five months, I have the honour to state that the German Government were in favour of the armistice as proposed by Her Majesty's Government and agreed to by the Powers, and urged its acceptance on the Servian Government through their Agent and Consul-General, who was instructed to act in concert with his colleagues of Austria and England at Belgrade.

Prince Bismarck had no objection to the Turkish proposal to prolong the armistice from one to five months, but when the Russian objections were submitted to the German Emperor at Baden, His Majesty was loth to press the matter against the wishes of the Czar.

The distance between Baden, Varzin, and Berlin was the cause of delay, and it was not until the Emperor's decision was brought by General von Schweinitz from Baden to Berlin on the 18th instant that the German Ambassador at London was instructed to state to your Lordship that "although the German Government were of opinion that the armistice of five months appeared to them acceptable, and that they wished Russia had accepted it, they did not think themselves justified to exercise pressure on the resolutions of other Powers," &c.

On the morning of the 13th instant I met Herr von Bülow, and was told by His Excellency that the German Government had urged the acceptance of the armistice on Servia, which left the impression on my mind that the acceptance of the armistice was absolute, and I telegraphed under that impression to your Lordship.

Later in the afternoon I called at the Foreign Office to communicate your Lordship's telegram of the 11th officially to his Excellency; and after repeating that the Servian Government had been urged to accept the armistice, he added that the conditions were not yet known, but that the proposed period of its duration might be objected to at Vienna and in Russia. The German Government had no wish to raise objections or to add to existing difficulties, and would, therefore, reserve their opinion until they had received more detailed reports from Constantinople, and until they were in possession of the views of the guaranteeing Powers.

I did not understand this reservation to apply to the acceptance in principle of the armistice, but to the mode of meeting and dealing with the possible objections of other Powers; and I believe that the German Government would have continued to urge its acceptance if the Emperor had not finally intimated at Baden, through General von Schweinitz, his wish not to adopt a course which would give pain to the Czar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 747.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 23.)

My Lord, *Berlin, October* 20, 1876.

I HAVE spoken to Herr von Bülow on the subject of your Lordship's despatches of the 14th instant, respecting the appointment of officers duly qualified and properly instructed to concert the details of the armistice as suggested by the Ambassadors at Constantinople to their respective Governments, and said that Her Majesty's Government were ready to appoint at once officers to the Turkish and Servian armies as well as to that of Montenegro.

Herr von Bülow said that the German Government would be equally ready to take part in these arrangements when the armistice had been definitively accepted by all the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 748.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 21, 1876, 10·45 P.M.*

SOME days ago, speaking for myself, as I said, and without instructions, I strongly recommended the Porte to express itself ready to accept the shorter armistice demanded by Russia, provided it was coupled with an engagement that it should be extended for a similar term if the negotiations were not concluded before it expires.

The advice has been acted upon.

When General Ignatiew called upon the Grand Vizier to-day, his Highness told him that he would agree to an armistice of six weeks on condition that if the negotiations were not ended by that time it should be renewed for a similar term, without a shot being fired on either side, and again for two months if the second period passed without result.

General Ignatiew said that he would take the proposal into consideration.

It appears impossible for the Porte to do more.

No. 749.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 23, 1876.*

YOUR telegram of the 20th instant has been received.

I have to point out to your Excellency that I have never agreed to any Conference from which the Porte should be excluded; still less have I suggested such a course.

Though I have mentioned Constantinople as the place where a Conference might be held, the question of locality remains quite open; and I have not pledged Her Majesty's Government to the selection of any particular place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 750.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 23, 1876.*

I APPROVE the note addressed by your Excellency to Count Andrassy, copy of which was inclosed in your despatch of the 12th instant, urging upon him, in compliance with the instructions which you had received, the importance of every effort being used by Austria-Hungary to induce Servia to accept the armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 751.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 23, 1876.*

MR. MONSON telegraphs that the foreign Agents had an important interview to-day with Prince Nicholas, the particulars of which he is reporting by post.

No. 752.

The Earl of Derby to Colonel Mansfield.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 23, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the position of the Moldo-Wallachian Principalities; and I have to instruct you to continue to recommend to the Government at Bucharest to preserve a prudent attitude, and to keep frankly to the obligations imposed upon them by the Treaties under which the Principalities have been constituted, and which afford them the best security for the protection of their national interests.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 753.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 24.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of Vice-Consul Brown's weekly report on the movement of troops, volunteers, &c., passing Ibraila.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

Inclosure in No. 753.

Vice-Consul Brown to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

Sir, *Ibraila, October* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward you the weekly list of Russian troops passing Ibraila, since my last despatch of the 6th instant.

		Men.
Sunday,	8th October	240
Monday,	9th „	60
Tuesday,	10th „	130
Wednesday,	11th „	22
Thursday,	12th „	275
Friday,	13th „	70
	Total	797

The Wallachian border troops (Granziere) of the Ibraila district, about 200 in number, left Ibraila this morning for the interior, said to be for autumn manœuvre. The troops of the line are said to be under orders to follow for Tecutz.

By the train of the 11th instant a quantity of influential Russian, Servian, and Montenegrin private gentlemen passed on to Bucharest, and, during their few hours stay here, were entertained by the Bulgarian-Servian Committee of Ibraila.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. BROWN.

No. 754.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 24.)

My Lord, *Paris, October* 23, 1876.

IN your despatch of the 14th instant, your Lordship did me the honour to inform me that Her Majesty's Government were ready to appoint officers to settle the details of an armistice.

The Duc Decazes told me the day before yesterday that soon after the Porte had announced its willingness to establish the six months' armistice, he had sent to Constantinople instructions authorizing the Military Attaché to the French Embassy there to act as French Commissioner for settling the details thereof.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 755.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 24, 1876.

WITH reference to my letter of the 14th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will state to Mr. Secretary Hardy that his Lordship is very desirous of receiving an early answer to the suggestions contained therein, with regard to the nomination of British officers as Military Delegates at the Turkish, Servian, and Montenegrin headquarters, for the purpose of concerting with the several Commanders-in-chief the terms of an armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 756.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 24, 1876.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that the Queen has been pleased to signify her commands that Colonel Lennox, R.E., should be temporarily attached to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

Your Excellency will accordingly consider Colonel Lennox as forming part of your Diplomatic Establishment, and you will employ him in the business of the Embassy in whatever way you may deem most beneficial for Her Majesty's service.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 757.

Lord Tenterden to Colonel Lennox.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 24, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that the Queen has been graciously pleased to approve of his Lordship's recommendation of you for the appointment of Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 758.

Lord Tenterden to Colonel Lennox.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 24, 1876.

WITH reference to my other letter of this day's date, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you that your duties, as Military Attaché at Constantinople, will be to report on all matters of interest relatiag to military affairs in Turkey, and you will address your reports to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, by whom they will be transmitted to this Office.

I am at the same time to refer you to the War Office for any further information you may be desirous of obtaining in regard to your appointment.

I am further to request that you will be so good as to proceed to your post at your earliest convenience.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 759.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 24, 1876.

THE Queen having been pleased to approve the nomination of Colonel Lennox, R.E., to be Military Attaché at Constantinople, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, to be laid before Mr. Secretary Hardy, the accompanying copies of the instructions addressed to that officer on his appointment.*

I am to add that Lord Derby presumes that the appointment of Colonel Lennox will not interfere, at all events for the present, with the employment of Major-General Sir A. Kemball at the Turkish head-quarters.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 760.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.†—(*Received October* 24, 2·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 24, 1876, 11·30 A.M.

IN answer to proposal of the Grand Vizier about armistice, General Ignatiew says that he would accept such an arrangement with the following wording respecting its prolongation:—

"If, within the term of six weeks, the desired result is not obtained, the Powers will agree ('conviendraient') to renew it for six more weeks, 'quittes' to a renewal of it a third time for two months if the necessity for it is recognised."

Porte wishes both parties to be bound to prolong the armistice if negotiations are not completed, and fears that General Ignatiew's form would expose it to the chance of being told, at the expiration of the first term, that Servia refused to follow advice of the Powers to prolong it.

It will be better for the Porte that the armistice, as proposed by General Ignatiew, should be accepted, and I have expressed this as my personal opinion.

No. 761.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 24, 1876.

YOUR despatch of the 13th instant has been received, and I have to state to you that I have read Mr. Baring's Report with great concern, as it shows that the Commission under Sadoullah Bey does not promise to be of real service.

You should bring to the notice of the Porte Mr. Baring's statements, and you cannot urge too strongly the necessity of their taking effective measures to afford redress, execute justice, and provide at once for the protection of the Christians.

I have to instruct you to point out, at the same time, the illusory character of the inquiry, which seems to be little better than that of Edib Effendi.

Her Majesty's Government trust that the representations you have made to the Sultan may be acted on without delay, as otherwise the results as regards the relations between Great Britain and the Porte may be serious.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 762.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 25.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to submit inclosed herewith a copy of a letter which I addressed yesterday to the Pasha of Salonica, with a copy of the reply which I have

* Nos. 757 and 758. † Repeated to Embassies.

received from him, respecting a Bulgarian girl who has been carried off from Batak by a Mahommedan of Nevrocop, who is trying to convert her to Mahommedanism.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 762.

Consul Blunt to Eshref Pasha.

Salonique, le 12 *Octobre,* 1876.

JE viens d'apprendre d'une source que je crois être sûre, qu'une fille Bulgare, âgée de dix-huit à dix-neuf ans, se trouve actuellement à Nevrocop dans la maison d'un Mahomédan, qui l'avait enlevé de Batak, et qui tache à la convertir au Mahomédanisme.

J'invite donc votre Excellence d'envoyer les ordres les plus formels aux autorités de Nevrocop de faire trouver cette fille et de l'envoyer à Salonique pour qu'elle soit restorée à ses parents.

Je demande, en outre, que l'individu qui a enlevé cette fille soit sevèrement puni.

(Signé) J. E. BLUNT.

(Translation.)

Salonica, October 12, 1876.

I HAVE just been informed, from a source which I believe to be trustworthy, that a Bulgarian girl, eighteen or nineteen years old, is actually living at Nevrokop in the house of a Mahomedan, who carried her off from Batak, and who is trying to convert her to Mahomedanism.

I therefore beg your Excellency to send the most explicit orders to the authorities at Nevrokop, to see that this girl is found, and to have her sent to Salonica, so that she may be restored to her parents.

I beg, moreover, that the person who has carried off this girl may be severely punished.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 762.

Eshref Pasha to Consul Blunt.

(Traduction.) *Salonique,* 23 *Ramazan,* 1293 (*le* 12 *Octobre,* 1876).

EN réponse à votre communication de cette date je m'empresse de vous informer que j'ai transmis les ordres les plus sévères au Gouverneur de Serres de prendre immédiatement des mesures pour trouver la fille Bulgare de Batak, qui aurait été enlevée et amenée à Nevrocop, et de l'expédier à Salonique ; et aussi de découvrir et d'arrêter l'individu qui aurait enlevé cette fille.

Me reservant de vous communiquer le résultat de ces ordres, j'ai, &c.

(Signé) ESHREF.

(Translation.)

Salonica, October 12, 1876.

IN answer to your communication of this date, I hasten to inform you that I have sent the most stringent orders to the Governor of Serres, to take steps at once to find the Bulgarian girl who has been taken away from Batak and carried to Nevrokop, and to have her sent to Salonica ; as well as instructions for the discovery and apprehension of the man who carried off the girl.

(Signed) ESHREF.

No. 763.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 25.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, October* 12, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch of the 3rd instant, received by last post from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, regarding the deplorable state of the Administration in the Herzegovina.

Ali Pasha the Governor, late Turkish Ambassador at Paris, is a most enlightened, amiable, and liberal Turk, but feeling his entire want of power to cope with the difficulties by which he is surrounded. The ignorant native Medjlisses and subordinate functionaries follow their own devices. This constantly recurring occurrence of even good men proving useless, shows how needful is a total change in the administration, which, by making it a Governor's personal interest to exert all his energy in the direction of general improvement, and conferring on him real power to carry out his projects, would tend to make even bad men good, and good men better, and is undoubtedly the only way by which any large and enduring measure of reform, or any progress in civilization, can possibly be hoped for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 763.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Mostar, October* 3, 1876.

I REGRET to have to report to you that probably for many years past the administration of this Province has not been in such a deplorable state as at the present moment.

His Excellency Ali Pasha, the Governor-General, showed a disposition on his arrival in the Herzegovina to favour and ingratiate himself with the Christian population. Some half-dozen of the most influential and fanatical Mussulmans of the place are, however, the real Governors of the Province, and not a native Christian ever ventures either for business or pleasure to approach his Excellency. It is difficult to understand this, as he is probably one of the most enlightened and liberal of Turkish officials.

For a long time past no Christian member has been present at the sittings of the "Idareh Medjliss" or Administrative Council. There are nominally two Christian members, an Orthodox, and a Roman Catholic, but the former left Mostar in the summer for Austria and has never been replaced, and the latter, feeling that any opinion he might dare to emit would be utterly disregarded, prefers to entirely absent himself.

Anything like justice is quite unobtainable in any of the Medjlisses, and murders are of frequent occurrence in the surrounding country, but the perpetrators are rarely brought to justice.

No. 764.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 25.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, October* 13, 1876.

IT would seem that lately the word has been passed for a general renewal of hostilities in all directions, and almost simultaneously have come reports of severe engagements near Alexinatz, at Vishigrad, at Yavor, and at Belina,—in all of which, we are here told, the Turkish arms have been victorious.

On the north-west frontier there has been fighting at Klioutch, also ending in favour of the Turks; and attempts were made to raise the Christian inhabitants of Teshneh, which proved ineffectual.

In the Herzegovina, Liubinje has been attacked by a large band of Montenegrins and insurgents under Peko Pavlovich, who succeeded by an unexpected descent on the town during the early morning before any one was astir, it being Ramazan, in establishing themselves in a suburb without opposition. After two days' fighting, on the arrival of reinforcements from Stolàtz, the band retired, having burnt between twenty and thirty houses, and driven off a considerable number of cattle.

At Mostar, on this occasion, a demand was made by the authorities for 500 Bashi-Bazouk volunteers. The Mussulmans, however, refused compliance; but being informed that, such being the case, they must return the arms and ammunition which had been given them by the Government, they consented to furnish 360 men, but, as Mr. Freeman informs me, not more than about 100 really marched.

In Montenegro there has been also a renewal of hostilities. Both Moukhtar Pasha and the Montenegrins claim the victory in the engagements which have taken place near Zaslop, in Grahovo. On the Albanian side, it is reported that Dervish Pasha has forced an entry into Bielopavlovich, by Martinich, and that he has established his position there, the Montenegrins having been repulsed.

Mr. Freeman also informs me that warlike preparations are being actively carried on in Dalmatia. At Ragusa, vast quantities of provisions and ammunition are being collected, and the manufacture of pack-saddles for the army is being pushed on day and night.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 765.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 25.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, October* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a certain Hadji Loiyo, a bigoted and truculent Turk, who during the administration of Osman Pasha, some eight or nine years ago, was banished from Bosnia for his misconduct, but has since returned, lately placed himself on the road to Visvoko, a few hours from Serajevo, and amused himself with insulting and endeavouring to disarm all Christians whom he found travelling on that road.

This having given rise to some well-founded complaints, I represented to the Governor-General the character of the man and his antecedents, informing him also that on an occasion of his wishing to establish himself at Britcha, on the Save, the inhabitants, Mussulman and Christian, refused to allow him to do so, and drove him from the place.

His Excellency, having examined into the matter, has thanked me for bringing it to his notice, and informed me that he has sold his property and sent him out of Bosnia.

From inquiry I learn that this was effected a few days ago, the Hadji having been sent to Mitrovitza under an escort of four zaptiehs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 766.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 25.)

My Lord, *Scutari, October* 14, 1876.

AS I have already had the honour of informing your Lordship, Derwish Pasha recommenced active operations against Montenegro on the morning of the 9th instant, by marching out of Spuz, with a considerable force, into the plain of Bielopavlicka. The Montenegrins appear to have been driven from some rocks standing in the plain at a short distance from the Turkish frontier, and which they had fortified. The fighting continuing both on the 10th and 11th, Derwish Pasha decided upon establishing his headquarters at a place about three miles distant from Spuz, called Bazar Mush by the Turks, and where his powerful artillery could maintain him secure from all the attacks of the Montenegrins.

Mustafa Djellaledin Pasha, who had only arrived in Albania ten days before as second in command under Derwish Pasha, was mortally wounded on the afternoon of the 10th, and died next morning.

The very severe measures adopted by Derwish Pasha for preventing news from reaching this from the front makes it very difficult to check the published official reports by independent information.

It seems that the Turkish soldiery are once more permitted to cut off the head

from the dead bodies of their enemies as, between the 9th and 10th, fifty-five Montenegrin heads were brought into Spuz and publicly exposed to view. Whilst European newspaper correspondents were in the Turkish camp the commanders took every step in their power to prevent all such barbarous exhibitions; therefore, I shall not fail to let Derwish Pasha know that he is wrong to imagine that such acts can be kept from reaching the public when no correspondents are near, and that discredit will fall upon him if it is found that it is only dread of publicity that prevents him from giving full license to the barbarous inclinations of his troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 767.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 25.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 14, 1876.

I RECEIVED at 7 o'clock this morning your Lordship's instructions, conveyed in a telegram from Sir Andrew Buchanan, respecting the armistice proposed by the Porte.

I at once sent word to Prince Nicholas that I requested the honour of an audience; and, as soon as I had mastered the contents of the despatch, I went to the Palace, and found His Highness prepared to receive me.

I told him that I had your Lordship's instructions to press earnestly the expediency of consenting to the armistice as proposed by Turkey. I placed in His Highness' hands a Memorandum in French of the substance of Sir Henry Elliot's telegram of the 12th instant, and I said that in addition to the communications already made to His Highness by the French and Italian Agents, I was in a position to assure him that Prince Bismarck had sent instructions to the German Agent at Belgrade to urge upon the Servian Government the acceptance of these proposals.

I then went *seriatim* through the conditions with His Highness, discussing each of them at length, and begging him to consider and give me his ideas on them; and I did not omit to lay stress on the fact that Montenegro's best policy was to conciliate the continued good opinion of those Powers which were honestly advocating peace.

The Prince charged me to assure your Lordship that his own disposition continued to be pacific, and that, in spite of the advantages gained by his troops, he desired to put an end to the war. He would require time to reflect upon, and fuller acquaintance with, all the conditions of the armistice.

As I had presented them to him they seemed thoroughly acceptable; but he could not pronounce upon them definitely until he had consulted Servia, although he saw no reason why Servia should object to them.

I left the Palace perfectly satisfied with the result of the interview. It appeared to me to have materially changed the position of affairs, which my ~~Austrian, French,~~ and Italian colleagues had, like myself, yesterday considered very unpromising.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 768.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 25.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 14, 1876.

THE additional reports received of the recent fighting near Spuz confirm the extent of the victory gained by the Montenegrins. At least 1,200 Turks were killed; and among them Jelleladin Pasha, who lately commanded a division under Moukhtar Pasha, but who, since his quarrel with the latter, had been transferred to Albania.

It seems also that the Montenegrin loss was heavy, amounting to about 250 killed and wounded. Many of the latter have already been brought to the hospital here.

The raid into the Herzegovina, mentioned in my despatch of the 10th instant, resulted in the destruction of nearly the whole of Lyubinje and its inhabitants, including the women and children, to the number of 1,200, and in the capture of several hundred cattle and sheep, and of other booty, which has all been brought to Grahowo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 769.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

My Lord, *Cettigné October* 16, 1876.

I HAVE only time before the departure of the early mail to report to your Lordship that Prince Nicholas has this morning assured the Austrian Agent that he will raise no unreasonable difficulties to the armistice; but His Highness reserves his definite assent to it until he has the conditions in writing, and is informed of the views of Servia.

His Highness, however, thinks the proposed duration of six months too long.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 770.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 15, 1876.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 7th instant, asking whether, in consequence of the uneasiness felt by the English connected with the Danube and Black Sea Railway, it might not be advisable to send a second gunboat to the Danube, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Tuckerman, the Agent of the Company, has several times since communicated to me very alarming applications from the manager of the Company for protection.

Last night he sent me a telegram again urgently asking for protection, as though a great danger were imminent, and I immediately telegraphed to Vice-Consul Sankey to inquire what grounds there were for apprehension.

I received the inclosed answer from him this afternoon, and I telegraphed to Commander Musgrave to take Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," now stationed in the Danube, to Tchernavoda, for the protection of British subjects; and I directed Colonel Sankey to communicate to the Governor of Kustendje any grounds for apprehension which he considered to exist at that place, and to call upon him to take the necessary steps for the protection of British lives and property.

The Porte declares that it has no reason to believe there is any cause for anxiety, but he has, at my request, desired the Governor of Kustendje to call in an extra police force if he sees the slightest necessity for it.

During the last few months there have been so many panics both in the capital and in the provinces, without the slightest real ground for them, that it is impossible not to feel sceptical when a fresh one occurs; but, in the present excited state of men's minds, and with the knowledge that there are designing persons striving to create disturbances, it would not be safe to disregard the warnings.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 770.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Kustendje, October* 14, 1876.

AT Tchernavoda, where population largely Circassian, from threats uttered and information I reported I consider there exists cause for apprehending danger to English. Here all quiet, but anxious feeling prevails and protection during approaching festival is desirable.

No. 771.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram received by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires from his Government, saying that they will not be able to press an armistice

for six months upon Servia and Montenegro, and that they must therefore insist that, as originally proposed by England, it shall be for a month or six weeks, its duration to be prolonged if the progress of the negotiations shows a necessity for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 771.

Prince Gortchakow to M. Nelidow.

(Télégraphique.) *Livadia, le* 14 *Octobre,* 1876.

JE télégraphie ce qui suit à nos Représentants près les cinq Grandes Puissances :—

" Ne croyons pas armistice de six mois nécessaire ou favorable à conclusion d'une paix durable que désirons, nous ne saurions exercer pression sur Serbie et Monténégro pour les faire consentir incertitude aussi prolongée de leur situation difficile. Enfin trouvons que position financière et commerciale de toute l'Europe déjà intolérable souffrirait encore de ce délai. Devons insister sur armistice d'un mois à six semaines, proposition primitive de l'Angleterre, sauf à le prolonger si la marche des négociations en démontre la nécessité."

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Livadia, October* 14, 1876.

I AM telegraphing the following to our Representatives with the five Great Powers :—

" We do not think six months' armistice necessary or favourable to the conclusion of the durable peace which we desire; we could not exert pressure on Servia and Montenegro to make them consent to so prolonged an uncertainty of their difficult situation. In short, we think that the financial and commercial condition of all Europe, which is intolerable, would still further suffer by this delay. We must insist on an armistice of from one month to six months, the first proposal of England, to be prolonged if the progress of the negotiations shows that this is necessary."

No. 772.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 25.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 16, 1876.

I HAVE endeavoured, through a Bulgarian source, to learn some particulars of the persons now in London, and designating themselves as the delegates of the Bulgarian people.

According to the information given to me, their claim to the character they assume seems very doubtful.

The one of them who is a person of good family lived some time in Paris, where he was engaged in writing articles of great violence against the Turkish Government, which were sent to the newspapers in different parts of Europe; and upon his return he edited a paper with the support, it is asserted, of the Russian Embassy, which did much to encourage his country to the late insurrectionary movement.

His personal character was not such as to inspire the respect which would have led to his being selected as a representative or delegate.

The other is stated also to be a man of turbulent disposition, who, by joining the Roman Catholic Church while on a visit to Rome, forfeited the esteem of his countrymen, which he did not regain upon again recanting when he returned to this country.

My informant, who is a good Bulgarian patriot, added that it is believed that these persons received 500*l.* from the Russian Embassy for the expenses of their journey, but I give his statement about them for what it is worth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 773.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 17, 1876.

AT a moment when Russian volunteers and Russian supplies of all descriptions are being poured so freely into a province in rebellion against its Suzerain, it may not be without interest to show what the views formerly held by the Russian Government have been as to the duties of neighbouring States towards each other.

The inclosed extract from a local paper contains the copy of a vigorous protest by the Russian Ambassador against the Porte for having allowed two foreign officers, twelve men, and some supplies to the Caucasus at the time of the insurrection of 1857.

I have, &c

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 773.

Newspaper Extract.

LES vues Russes relatives aux droits et aux obligations des neutres semblent avoir subi des modifications considérables pendant les vingt dernières années. En 1857, lorsque les Circassiens étaient en révolte contre le Gouvernement Russe, l'Ambassadeur Russe, M. de Bouteneff, signala au Grand Vézir qu'un vaisseau battant pavillon Ottoman, chargé de munitions de guerre et transportant deux officiers (étrangers) qui avaient servi dans l'armée Turque, ainsi que dix ou douze simples soldats Polonais, était à l'ancre dans la Corne d'Or, prêt à prendre la mer et à gagner les côtes de la Circassie. Le Grand Vézir défendit le départ du bateau, mais les munitions furent, paraît-il, transbordées sur un autre vaisseau portant le pavillon Anglais, si nos souvenirs sont exacts. Les officiers et la petite troupe Polonaise y prirent aussi passage et atteignirent leur destination. Lorsque ce fait fut connu de l'Ambassade Russe, l'Ambassadeur, M. de Bouteneff, adressa à Edhem Pacha, alors Ministre Ottoman des Affaires Etrangères, une note sévère qui portait la date du 26 Février et dont une copie est sous nos yeux. Le document se termine ainsi :—

"Le Soussigné croit superflu de relever toute la gravité d'un semblable défaut de surveillance, au moment même où il avait appelé sur ces menées la sérieuse attention du Gouvernement Ottoman; et il abandonne au jugement éclairé et impartial de son Excellence Edhem Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, d'apprécier la fâcheuse impression que ce fait ne manquera pas de produire sur le Cabinet Impérial de St. Pétersbourg. L'envoi de ces secours d'hommes et de munitions, destinés à des populations en état d'hostilité avec le Gouvernement Impérial et dont la Sublime Porte avait été prévenue par les démarches antérieures du Soussigné, lui impose toutefois le devoir de protester dès à présent contre un acte aussi contraire aux relations de paix et de bon voisinage qu'aux sentiments d'amitié dont le Soussigné a été assez heureux pour recueillir l'expression de la bouche même de Sa Majesté le Sultan. En s'acquittant de ce regrettable devoir, le Soussigné saisit l'occasion, &c."

Il paraîtrait résulter de tout cela qu'en 1857, selon les idées de la Russie, ce n'était pas conforme aux relations pacifiques et de bon voisinage que la Porte, par manque de surveillance, laissât glisser une cargaison de munitions de guerre à travers le Bosphore à destination de la côte des Provinces Caucasiennes alors révoltées contre le Gouvernement Russe. Dans le cas dont il s'agit, la Russie était directement intéressée, et l'intérêt aurait pu nuancer ses opinions. Mais dix ans plus tard la Russie, de concert avec les autres Puissances Européennes, exprime une opinion contraire à la "guerre couverte" faite par la Grèce, à l'appui de l'insurrection Crétoise. Presque dix ans après cet événement nous mettent en face de la Russie permettant à ses officiers et à ses soldats d'aller, par centaines et par milliers, grossir les rangs des Serbes révoltés, facilitant la transmission de munitions de guerre de Russie en Serbie, tolérant les efforts des Comités, encourageant les souscriptions aux emprunts Serbes—bref faisant la même "guerre couverte" qu'elle avait reprochée à la Grèce, et enfin faisant, avec une activité non déguisée, exactement les mêmes choses qui, pour un cas isolé, où la passivité avait été la seule faute des Turcs, avaient provoqué la protestation que nous avons citée. Mais ce n'est pas tout. Lorsque l'Ambassadeur de Turquie à St. Pétersbourg faisait récemment des remontrances

auprès du Prince Gortchakow au sujet de l'aide effective que la Russie apportait ouvertement aux rebelles Serbes, les remontrances de l'Ambassadeur furent reçues par une fin de non-recevoir dédaigneuse, négligeant complétement les principes sur lesquels la Russie s'était basée en 1857 à l'égard de l'insurrection du Caucase, et en 1867 à l'égard de celle de Crète. Tant qu'il plaira à l'Europe de tolérer la conduite contraire aux lois internationales de la Russie, celle-ci en usera et en abusera. Mais il est temps de mettre un terme à cet état de choses, et à moins que l'Europe ne soit disposée à se soumettre à la dictature de la Russie, il faut apprendre à la Grande Puissance du Nord que la loi internationale est une loi, et que la police de l'Europe en exigera l'observance même au prix d'une guerre. Maintes accusations peuvent être justement formulées contre la Turquie; mais, quels que soient ses défauts, elle a le droit d'être traitée avec justice, et l'acte criminel de la traiter avec injustice ne sera aucunement atténué par la force de la coalition qui le mettrait à exécution.

(Translation.)

THE views entertained by Russia with regard to the rights and duties of neutrals seem to have undergone considerable modification during the last twenty years. In 1857, while the Circassians were in a state of revolt against the Russian Government, the Russian Ambassador, M. Bonteneff, informed the Grand Vizier that a vessel flying Turkish colours, laden with munitions of war, and carrying two officers (foreigners) who had served in the Turkish army, and ten or twelve Polish privates, was at anchor in the Golden Horn, ready to start, and to make for the Circassian coast. The Grand Vizier forbad the departure of the vessel, but the munitions of war were, it would appear, transferred to another vessel flying English colours, if we remember rightly. The officers and the small body of Poles also took passage in the vessel, and reached their destination. When this fact became known at the Russian Embassy, the Ambassador, M. Bouteneff, addressed to Edhem Pasha, at that time Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, a stern note, dated February 26, a copy of which is now before us. The document ends as follows:—

"The Undersigned thinks it unnecessary to point out the serious nature of such a want of superintendence, at the very moment when he had called the serious attention of the Ottoman Government to these proceedings, and he leaves it to the enlightened and impartial judgment of his Excellency Edhem Pasha, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, to estimate the vexatious impression which this affair cannot fail to produce on the Imperial Government at St. Petersburgh. The dispatch of this aid in men and munitions to a people now at war with the Imperial Government, of which the Undersigned had previously taken steps to warn the Sublime Porte, imposes on him the duty of entering an immediate protest against an act as much opposed to the relations of peace and friendship which exist as it is to the feelings of friendship which the Undersigned has been fortunate enough to receive from the Sultan himself. The Undersigned, in discharging this painful duty, avails, &c."

It would thus seem that in 1857, according to Russian ideas, it was not in accordance with peaceful relations, and the duties of good neighbourship, that the Porte, owing to lack of watchfulness, should allow a cargo of ammunition to slip across the Bosphorus bound for the Caucasus, the inhabitants of which were at that time in revolt against Russia.

In the case in point Russia had a direct interest which may perhaps have influenced her opinions.

Ten years later, however, Russia, acting in concert with the rest of the European Powers, declared herself opposed to the secret warfare carried on by Greece in support of the insurrection in Crete.

Nearly ten years later we find Russia allowing her officers and soldiers to go by hundreds and by thousands to swell the ranks of the Servians now in revolt, facilitating the dispatch of ammunition from Russia to Servia, tolerating the efforts made by the Committees, encouraging subscriptions to Servian Loans, in short, carrying on the same secret warfare for which she had blamed Greece; and, in fact, showing undisguised activity in doing exactly that which, in an isolated case in which toleration had been the only fault committed by the Turks, had called forth the above-mentioned protest.

But this is not all. When the Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburgh recently protested to Prince Gortchakow against the aid openly given by Russia to the Servians who were in rebellion, his remonstrances were met with haughty disdain, thus showing an entire

forgetfulness of the principles by which Russia was guided in 1857, respecting the insurrection in the Caucasus, and in 1867 respecting that in Crete.

As long as Europe is pleased to tolerate Russia's behaving in a manner entirely contrary to international law, Russia will avail herself of and misuse the toleration.

But it is time to put a stop to this state of affairs, and unless Europe is inclined to submit to Russian dictation, the Great Power of the North must be taught that international law is a law, and that the European community will require the observance of that law, even at the cost of a war.

Turkey may justly be accused of much, but whatever her failings, she has the right to demand fair treatment, and the criminality of treating her unfairly is in no way affected by the strength of the coalition which would force her to submit to such reatment.

No. 774.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 25.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 17, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a further despatch from Sir Arnold Kemball respecting the progress of military operations in Servia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 774.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters' Camp, before Alexinatz, October* 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to subjoin six telegrams (A to E inclusive) addressed to your Excellency since the date of my despatch of the 2nd instant.

The movement ordered for to-morrow is directed, I understand, to effect the occupation of Djunis at the meeting of the main roads which lead to Krusevatz and Deligrad, but whether it is to be restricted to that object or to be intended as the first step to any settled plan of operations comprising an advance into the country by Stabatz at the junction of the two Moravas has not transpired. It is certain only that the lines of Alexinatz-Deligrad will not be attacked, but in the event of an advance will be watched by a corps of observation detached from this army and reinforced by a division which is said to be now on its way from Constantinople.

I venture to suggest that the orders issued by the Porte at your Excellency's instance, with a view to restrain the outrages of the irregular levies, should be reiterated. The more uncontrollable of the Bashi-Bazouks have withdrawn from the camp, or have been dismissed to their homes, and the remainder have been attached to the several brigades and divisions with the view in some sort of bringing them under command; but I am not aware that their organization as paid soldiers, in the sense contemplated in your Excellency's instruction to me, has yet been effected, and without it I apprehend that their habits of plunder may prove to have been checked only by the want of opportunity.

I fear there may be some truth in the Servian complaint of the mutilation by the Turkish soldiery not of the wounded, but of the killed on the field of battle. This suspicion is justified by the three or four instances observed by myself of the heads of the slain lying severed from their bodies over a very limited portion of ground, though no cases of further mutilation fell under my notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. R. KEMBALL.

Telegram (A).

Head-Quarters, Tuesday, P.M.

Nothing extraordinary yesterday or to-day. Enemy fortifying position on plain and in the rear. Ahmed Ayoub Pasha advised Porte that armistice terminated, but no movement apparently contemplated by Turks.

(Signed) KEMBALL.

Telegram (B).

Head-Quarters, Thursday, 10 P.M.

As yet resumption of hostilities has been followed by unusual quiet, but Ahmed Ayoub Pasha preparing to advance in the direction of Krusevatz the day after to-morrow.

(Signed) KEMBALL.

Telegram (C).

Head-Quarters, Friday, 9 P.M.

Nothing to report except that movement intended for to-morrow has been postponed.

(Signed) KEMBALL.

Telegram (D).

Head-Quarters, Saturday, 10 P.M.

Abdul Kerim Pasha came out to camp to-day; still here. Sent to Alexinatz by the direction of Sultan thirteen released prisoners, dressed completely as Turkish soldiers; these were taken prisoners Yavor, forwarded Constantinople, back here. Servians 7 P.M. opened fire artillery, and infantry in half-an-hour repel supposed night attack; we did not move or fire.

(Signed) KEMBALL.

Telegram (E).

Sunday, 10 P.M.

Abdul Kerim Pasha returned to Nish; has ordered to attack enemy's position to-morrow in the direction of Krusevatz. Have observed headless bodies; at once and repeatedly remonstrated with Chief of Staff, who promised reform, but only one remedy: War Office issue general order to be subscribed by superior officers down to field officers, as have been read and explained to troops.

(Signed) KEMBALL.

No. 775.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1876, 2·25 P.M.

YOUR telegram dated 11·30 A.M., October 24, received.

I approve your advice to Porte to accept armistice as proposed by General Ignatiew.

No. 776.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1876.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the appointment of Colonel Lennox to be Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople is not intended to supersede the arrangement under which Sir A. Kemball is now stationed at the head-quarters of the Turkish army in Servia.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 777.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1876.

MR. HOLMES will doubtless have forwarded to your Excellency a copy of his despatch of the 12th instant to this Office, in which he forwards copy of a Report

from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, giving a deplorable account of the state of the administration in the Herzegovina.

I hasten to point out to your Excellency that this Report shows a most lamentable state of things, and that the neglect of the Porte to provide for the proper administration of the province must, if persisted in, lead to consequences perilous to the Ottoman Empire in Europe.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 778.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador informed me, confidentially, on the 24th instant, that a communication had reached him to the effect that General Ignatiew had reported the following statements to have been made to him by Sir Henry Elliot:—

1. That England abandons the basis of peace lately suggested by herself.

2. That he (Sir H. Elliot) thinks the project of reform put forward by Midhat Pasha preferable to the system of "local autonomy," which he looks upon as "inexecutable."

3. That Her Majesty's Government had never proposed a Conference at Constantinople.

4. That if the Conference is held at Constantinople, England declares it to be impossible to exclude the Turkish Representative.

His Excellency asked me to inform him to what extent the above statements might be relied upon as having come from Sir H. Elliot, and as representing the views of the British Government.

I told Count Schouvaloff that I could answer him at once, and without difficulty, on the four points to which his question referred.

The second allegation referred only to the supposed personal opinion of Sir H. Elliot, and need not, therefore, be dealt with at any length. Sir Henry Elliot had probably expressed a favourable opinion of several parts of the scheme of reform proposed by Midhat Pasha, and I had no doubt that he felt strongly—as I also did—the difficulties which stood in the way of carrying into effect any scheme of administrative autonomy. It was not alleged that Sir H. Elliot had in any respect either exceeded or fallen short of his instructions, and Her Majesty's Government were fully satisfied as to his discretion and judgment.

With regard to the third assertion, it was, as his Excellency must be aware, strictly accurate that Her Majesty's Government had never proposed that a Conference should be held at Constantinople. They had proposed a Conference, and, in conversation with him and others, I had more than once expressed my personal opinion that Constantinople would be, on the whole, the most convenient place of meeting; but I had never said so officially or in the name of the Government, and, in fact, I had at all times been careful to reserve entire freedom of decision on that point; which was the more necessary as I was not fully acquainted with the views of the other Powers concerned.

As to the statement that if the Conference is held at Constantinople, England declares it to be impossible to exclude the Turkish Representative, it seemed to me that there must be some misunderstanding, since Sir H. Elliot could certainly never have stated an intention to exist on the part of his Government which had not in any way been announced, or even hinted at. He might have stated, as I had done here, his own impression as to the difficulty, not to say impossibility, of excluding the Representative of Turkey from a Conference on Turkish affairs held in the Turkish capital; but the question had never been discussed among the Powers, or decided by them, and no official declaration had been made by me on the subject.

As to the first point, which, being the most important, I had reserved for the last, it was obvious, I said, that the English Government could not abandon ideas which they had put forward only a month ago, nor was it possible that Sir H. Elliot should represent such abandonment as having taken place. That he had not done so was certain; but I could understand how, on this point, a misunderstanding might have arisen.

When it seemed too probable that the bases of peace proposed by England and supported by Russia in common with the other Powers could not be accepted by the Porte, the Russsian Government, as he could recollect, had suggested a joint occupation

by Austria and Russia, and a naval demonstration by the combined fleets. This proposal was rejected by England, and Her Majesty's Government, in lieu of further pressing on the Porte the immediate acceptance of the bases to which objection had been taken, had proposed instead that an armistice should be asked for, to be followed by a Conference. No programme or basis for the deliberation of this Conference had as yet been laid down, but it was understood by Her Majesty's Government, and, as I presumed, by the other Powers also, that it would have for its principal object the discussion of internal reforms to be effected in the Turkish Empire. Russia and the other Powers had agreed so far as the demand for an armistice was concerned, the question of the expediency of a Conference remaining still under discussion.

It was true, therefore, that these proposals had ceased to be pressed on the Porte. One mode of proceeding having been found unsuccessful had been dropped, and another substituted, and I thought that our present mode of action had this advantage among others, that we should be less likely to differ about words such as "local autonomy," which, as we all know, admitted of various meanings.

The Conference, if it met, could deal with the things to be done, not with the names by which they should be called. I reminded his Excellency that we had been of one mind on this last point in a former conversation, and that he had agreed with me in the expediency of thus getting over the difficulty of inducing the Porte to accept a formula which appeared to be peculiarly objectionable at Constantinople.

It might, therefore, be said with truth that the discussion of the bases of peace lately proposed had been suspended, and that they had been abandoned to this extent, that it was no longer meant to press them in the same form as before for the Porte's acceptance; but the policy which they indicated was neither abandoned nor modified. The only difference was that it would now be laid before the Porte in a form less liable to create prejudice and misunderstanding.

Count Schouvaloff thanked me for these explanations, which he promised to place at once before his Government.

No. 779.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador informed me this afternoon that General Ignatiew was demanding of the Porte nothing more than an armistice of six weeks to two months, the further prolongation of which should depend on the necessities of the negotiations, and on an understanding between the Porte and the guaranteeing Powers. Russia, he said, does not require the Porte to pronounce an opinion beforehand on the systems of autonomy to be granted to the disturbed Provinces. These last would be defined in the discussion in Conference of the six Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 780.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 27.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 26 *Octobre,* 1876.

A LA suite de combats successifs qui ont eu lieu ces derniers jours devant Alexinatz, l'Armée Impériale a pris d'assaut une fortification construite sur une très haute montagne et qui est considérée comme la clef du pont de Deligrad, ainsi que d'autres retanchements non moins importants. Elle s'est emparée du bourg de Coumik non loin du pont de Deligrad, où l'ennemi avait établi son quartier général, a occupé Djimissi, grand village sis au-delà de Coumik sur la chaussée qui conduit du pont de Deligrad à Kruchevatz et pris d'assaut plusieurs retranchements élevés en trois flancs de la montagne. Les Serbes, qui s'étaient divisés en trois colonnes, ont dû abandonner leurs positions et prendre la fuite; leurs pertes sont énormes. Du côte de Mitroviza, les Serbes, après avoir mis le feu aux maisons Musulmanes et Chrétiennes de Manik, se sont avancés en forces considérables et avec quelques canons jusqu'à 2 heures et demie de distance de Chatal. Après un violent combat de 4 heures, les Serbes ont été totalement défaits et obligés de

prendre la fuite en abandonnant leurs positions. Quant aux Serbes qui étaient concentrés aux environs de Boukouloja, ils ont été chassés des fortifications derrière lesquelles ils s'abritaient. Le Commandant de la Division de Novi-Bazar a aussi pris les fortifications élevées par les Serbes sur les revers des montagnes. Après un peu de résistance, les Serbes ont été forcés de quitter leurs positions avancées, qui ont été occupées par nos troupes.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 26, 1876.

IN consequence of successive encounters which have taken place lately before Alexinatz, the Imperial army has taken by assault a fortification built on a very high mountain, and which is considered the key of the bridge leading to Deligrad, as well as of other intrenchments not less important. It took the hamlet of Coumik, not far from the Deligrad bridge, where the enemy had placed his head-quarters; occupied Djimissi, a large village lying beyond Coumik, on the causeway which leads from the Deligrad bridge to Kruchevatz, and took by assault several entrenchments thrown up on three sides of the mountain. The Servians, who had divided into three columns, were forced to abandon their positions and take to flight; their losses were enormous. On the side of Mitrovitza the Servians, after setting fire to the Mussulman and Christian houses of Manik, advanced in considerable strength with a few guns as far as two-and-a-half hours' journey from Chatal. After a violent struggle for four hours the Servians were totally defeated and obliged to take to flight, abandoning their positions. As to the Servians who were concentrated in the neighbourhood of Boukouloja, they were driven out of the fortifications behind which they were sheltering themselves. The Commandant of the Novi-Bazar division also took the fortifications thrown up by the Servians on the reverse side of the mountains. After a slight resistance the Servians were forced to abandon their advanced posts, which were occupied by our troops.

No. 781.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies abroad.

My Lord,

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 27, 1876.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF informed me yesterday that the only demand to be made of the Porte by General Ignatiew was for an armistice to last from six weeks to two months, the prolongation of which should depend on the necessities of the negotiations, and upon an understanding between the Great Powers and the Porte. The Porte was not, he said, required by Russia to pronounce an opinion beforehand upon the systems of autonomy to be granted to the disturbed provinces, as they would be defined at the Conference of the Six Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 782.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 27, 1876.

I HAVE received your telegram of the 24th instant, and I have to state to you that I approve the advice which you unofficially gave to the Porte to accept the armistice on the conditions proposed by General Ignatiew.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 783.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 27, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 14th instant, reporting that, after recent fighting in the neighbourhood of Spuz, fifty-five Montenegrin heads were brought

in by the Turkish soldiery and publicly exposed to view; and I have to state to you that I approve your intention to make representations to Dervish Pasha on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 784.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 27, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador has read to me a telegram from Signor Melegari giving the substance of a conversation which his Excellency states that he has had with you, and in which you inquired what view the Italian Government took of the idea of a Conference from which the representative of Turkey should be excluded.

Signor Melegari seems to have observed in reply that if the disagreement between the Porte and other Powers became so serious as to threaten the maintenance of friendly relations, Article VIII of the Treaty of Paris directed the Porte and those Powers before resorting to force, to lay the case before the other signataries of the Treaty, with a view to mediation. He said he did not see how it was possible to exclude Turkey from a Conference which should meet to consider the application of this Article of the Treaty.

Signor Melegari adds that he did not think it necessary to discuss the possible event of a Congress of the Great Powers meeting spontaneously to consider what should be done to relieve the countries under Turkish Government from the precarious state in which they now were. The idea of such a Congress had been favourably entertained by Russia, but Signor Melegari did not enter further upon the subject, confining his remarks to the question of a Conference which should be summoned under the terms of the Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 785.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

My Lord, *Rome, October* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I called upon Signor Melegari this morning, and, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I informed his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are not prepared, having accepted the Turkish proposal for a six months' armistice, to withdraw their acceptance or to make any new proposition. I added that they will offer no objection to a shorter term, if the Porte is willing to consent to it, but that they cannot press the Porte to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 786.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(Extract.) *Rome, October* 23, 1876.

HAVING returned to Rome yesterday afternoon, I called on M. Melegari this morning.

After some general conversation, his Excellency informed me that he had received good news from Constantinople, and he read me a telegram, dated the 21st instant, from the Italian Minister, stating that General Ignatiew had just called upon him, after visiting the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and had informed him that he had hopes the Porte would accept the six weeks' armistice. In this case M. Melegari said he should consider peace as almost assured. It was not his intention, he said, to do anything more at Constantinople in the matter of the armistice pending the Russian negotiations.

No. 787.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(Extract.) *Rome, October 25, 1876.*

M. MELEGARI has expressed himself against accepting a general measure of reform for the whole Turkish Empire, instead of requiring the one limited to the provinces under the guarantee of a Protocol, as demanded by Her Majesty's Government. The Italian Government, his Excellency said, could certainly not undertake the responsibility of being a guardian of the rights of the Sultan's Christian subjects on so vast a scale. Let the Porte give a constitution to all its provinces if it so thought proper, but first let it be preceded by special measures, such as had been sketched out under a proper guarantee to the insurgent provinces, &c. This was what had been asked for, and this was what must be insisted on.

I have found his Excellency equally strong in regard to the non-exclusion of the Porte from any Conference which may be assembled for the purpose of developing the conditions for the future administration of the provinces. Such exclusion, his Excellency considers, would be at once at variance with the Treaty of Paris, and also an act of great injustice.

M. Melegari has also expressed himself to me again to-day in the most decided terms as to the absolute necessity of upholding the territorial integrity of the Turkish Empire. It was on this account that the Italian Government, he said, had hesitated as to accepting the word "autonomy" in the English proposals, as they feared it might be calculated to imply a diminution of the Sultan's sovereign authority over the provinces in question. The terms which the Italian Government would have preferred to "local autonomy" would have been "institutions which should guarantee the equality and protection of the two races."

M. Melegari added that it was absolutely essential at the present time to guard against any departure from the stipulations of the Treaty of Paris. His Excellency does not, however, believe that, if Russia should invade any part of Turkey, it will be with the intention of remaining there.

No. 788.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 29.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, October 18, 1276.*

ALTHOUGH I am not competent to offer any opinion as to its value, except as the sincere utterance of a well-informed Turk, who, by training and conviction, belongs to the party of Midhat Pasha, I think the language of Sermed Effendi worthy of record in connection with the Eastern question.

He avers that the unfortunate relations between Christian and Mussulman are more the result of the ignorance of the masses, who cling to the letter and ignore the spirit, than the result of the teachings of the Koran, which are decidedly in favour of continual progress. Christianity has been in this respect as ill-served by its votaries as Mahometanism by its fanatics. The present danger does not lie in the impossibility of progress, but in the fact that Russia is afraid of the possibility of progress, however slow, and desires to deprive the Porte of any chance of gaining by time the advantage of contenting the Christians and satisfying the legitimate sympathy of Europe. But time is as much a necessary element as in any European country, where no great reforms have ever been forced on a nation in a day. Progress in Turkey has been very slow, and there have recently been inexcusable excesses on the part of some sections of the population. The one must be accelerated and the other prevented for the future. But even in England judicial reforms have ever been the slow growth of time, and religious antipathies of still slower decline, whilst the habits of the nation are as cast in iron as any of the habits in Turkey. Could an Englishman brave Rotten Row without the hat which fashion prescribes? And can the ignorant Mussulman be reasonably expected to change in a day his manner of thought and the habits of centuries? The criticism should be comparative, and not absolute, for, since 1839 and 1854, there has been great improvement in the position of the Christians—unfortunately too slow, whilst as regards all the subjects of the Porte, reform in government has been lamentably defective. But the Porte would certainly resist any military occupation forced upon her for the purpose of reforms in those Provinces. The Turks would, however, be only too glad if England would take

them in hand and teach them how to govern the Danubian Provinces, and lend them Indian or other officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 789.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 28, 1876, 7·15 P.M.

IT would be a mistake to suppose that Russian influence would be increased by including the Greek provinces in a general measure of reform.

If this were likely to be the case, Russia would not be so much opposed to it.

Nothing will increase her influence so much as privileges given at her instance to the Slaves which are denied to the Greeks, who would at once begin an agitation for similar benefits.

No. 790.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 30.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 14, 1876.

IN conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant, I have urged strongly on the Imperial Government the acceptance of the armistice proposed by Turkey, and the importance of inducing Servia and Montenegro to do so.

M. de Giers said that Prince Gortchakow had not yet taken a decision on the subject.

There were, in his Excellency's opinion, certain points to which he considered Prince Gortchakow would object.

First, it would appear that the Porte excluded the insurgents from the armistice, as no mention of or reference to them was made by the Porte. He also considered that exception would be taken to the conditions prohibiting the Principalities receiving arms, ammunition, or volunteers, and giving encouragement or assistance to the insurgents during the armistice.

I pointed out to his Excellency that, as far as I knew, the official communication from the Porte did not mention the prohibition he had referred to as "conditions" of the armistice, but merely stated them as "wishes" of the Porte conveyed to the Powers, and submitted to their appreciation, as being founded on a principle of justice and equity.

As regarded the insurgents, I considered that it was the intention of the Porte to include all the belligerents in the armistice, although no reference may have been specially made to the insurgents.

The tone of the whole Russian press is adverse to the proposed armistice, and considers it as unacceptable.

From the observations of M. de Giers, I conclude that it will not be approved by Prince Gortchakow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 791.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby,—(*Received October* 30.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 17, 1876.

DURING the last few days the Russian Press has become violent and unanimous in denouncing the armistice proposed by Turkey, and in regarding its acceptance by Russia as inadmissible.

The fanatical excitement in favour of the Christians is general among all classes, and especially in Moscow, and in Southern Russia, and the feeling throughout the country for war in their behalf, is very prevalent.

I am informed that addresses are being got up to the Emperor, praying His

Majesty to give military succour to the oppressed Christians, and to deliver them from the Turkish yoke.

The position of the Emperor and his Government is becoming daily more embarrassing, and the internal movement is assuming proportions which renders it more threatening than the external danger, and, if not brought under control, may force the Emperor and the Government to energetic action.

Under these circumstances, and with a view to maintain the European concert, so essential to the preservation of the general peace of Europe, I venture to express my opinion that a compromise with regard to the question of the armistice might be brought about which in its results would be satisfactory to all parties.

I cannot but think that a proposal for an armistice extending to the end of the year would meet with general support, and would fulfil the objects which the Powers have in view.

It would be of sufficient duration to give time for the Powers to deliberate on the means of a pacification, whilst it would suffice likewise to prove the sincerity and efficacy of the negotiations for peace.

It would give time for reflection and for the excitement now raging here and elsewhere to calm down, whilst, in my opinion, it would be the sole means of averting a Russian occupation of Turkish territory, which is otherwise imminent, the grave consequences of which cannot be foreseen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 792.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 30.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 17, 1876.

I INQUIRED from M. de Giers to-day whether he was informed of the views of the German Government in regard to the armistice proposed by Turkey.

His Excellency stated that, as far as he knew, Prince Bismarck had not expressed any decided opinion on it, but that his Highness admitted as valid the explanations which Prince Gortchakow had given for declining to support an armistice of five months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 793.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 30.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 21, 1876.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 18th instant, I called on M. de Giers, and requested him to inform Prince Gortchakow that Her Majesty's Government found it inconvenient to have no direct means of communicating with his Highness, and that if agreeable to the Emperor, and if possible, they wished me to proceed to Livadia for personal communication with the Chancellor.

On Thursday morning, M. de Giers called on me to inform me that he had received a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, who had taken the Emperor's orders, and instructed his Excellency to inform me that I should be "le bien venu."

I accordingly start this evening direct for the Crimea, and shall be at Yalta, close to the present residence of Prince Gortchakow.

Mr. Egerton will accompany me as Second Secretary, and I propose taking the messenger Drury, so as to be able to despatch him with my correspondence after seeing Prince Gortchakow, either to Constantinople or to Vienna.

I have instructed Mr. Doria, Her Majesty's Secretary of Embassy, to attend to the current business during my absence, and to report to your Lordship any event of interest which may occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 794.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha October* 30.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le* 17 *Octobre,* 1876.

POUR faire suite à mon télégramme en date du 12 Octobre, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, en copie, la note-circulaire que je viens d'adresser à Messieurs les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople. Ce document a pour but de faire connaître aux Puissances les institutions nouvelles qui ont été élaborées par la Sublime Porte et sanctionnées par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Ces institutions comportent deux ordres de faits d'un caractère distinct, bien que tendant au même but: le premier relatif au gouvernement général du pays au point de vue de l'autorité centrale, et le second à l'administration locale des Provinces. Elles doivent avoir pour effet de faire passer dans le domaine de la réalité et de la pratique des réformes qui étaient en grande partie restées à l'état de théorie.

La première considération à laquelle j'appellerai votre attention, M. l'Ambassadeur, c'est que cette grande et solennelle réforme non-seulement revêt le caractère d'un acte absolument spontané de la volonté souveraine, mais encore a été résolue et élaborée dès l'avénement au trône de Sa Majesté Impériale notre auguste Maître, ainsi qu'en témoigne le Hatt Impérial par lequel il a fait connaître à ses peuples le programme général de son Gouvernement, programme inspiré par le désir ardent d'assurer le bonheur de tous ses sujets sans distinction de race et de religion.

En ce qui touche l'Administration Centrale, Sa Majesté Impériale a voulu faire participer les populations de l'Empire aux affaires publiques sous la forme et par l'organe d'une Assemblée Elective. Cette institution, dont il est superflu de faire ressortir l'importance au point de vue du gouvernement général du pays, sera complétée par la création d'un Sénat nommé par la Sublime Porte et destiné à seconder l'action gouvernementale dans les matières qui lui seront dévolues.

Cette œuvre, qui réalise dans son ensemble les plus larges concessions que l'on puisse faire à l'esprit de réforme, doit être mise en pratique sans aucun retard; et déjà une Commission, présidée par son Altesse Midhat Pacha et composée de hauts fonctionnaires Musulmans et Chrétiens, a été instituée à l'effet d'élaborer sans retard et de soumettre à l'approbation Impériale les Lois Constitutives des deux Assemblées qui doivent siéger dans la capitale.

En ce qui concerne l'Administration des Provinces, les institutions nouvellement décrétées se composent, d'une part, de l'organisation antérieure qui n'a pas reçu jusqu'ici tous les développements qu'elle comportait, et, d'autre part, de dispositions complémentaires particulièrement destinées à créer un contrôle sérieux et permanent sur les actes de l'autorité administrative et à faire également participer les populations aux affaires intérieures de la Province par l'organe des Conseils Généraux et des Conseils Provinciaux dont les attributions ont été déterminées. En créant ou en complétant cette organisation provinciale, le Gouvernement Impérial s'est inspiré à la fois de son désir de doter toutes les provinces de l'Empire d'une administration régulière et de tarir la source de tous les abus, et en même temps de répondre aux vœux et aux conseils exprimés par les Grandes Puissances; et il paraît impossible qu'en jugeant l'œuvre dans son ensemble, l'Europe ne reconnaisse pas qu'en toute bonne foi le programme de réformes spontanément accordées par la Sublime Porte remplit pleinement et sans réserve le but proposé.

Il vous sera donc facile, M. l'Ambassadeur, de faire ressortir combien la marche adoptée par la Sublime Porte est préférable à toute disposition spéciale qui s'appliquerait seulement à certaines provinces, à l'exclusion des autres parties de l'Empire; système qui aurait pour effet de détruire l'unité administrative, et de créer des situations privilégiées dont le premier effet serait de jeter le mécontentement parmi les populations qui en seraient privées, alors que leur soumission constante à l'autorité souveraine semblerait, au contraire, les rendre plus dignes des faveurs du Gouvernement.

Vous puiserez, sans aucun doute, M. l'Ambassadeur, dans ces considérations les moyens et les arguments les plus puissants pour convaincre les hommes d'Etat que vous aurez l'occasion d'entretenir de cette question, de la rectitude des vues du Gouvernement Impérial dont la sincérité ne saurait être mise en doute puisque la volonté souveraine, si hautement exprimée, va recevoir sans attermoiement et sans retard une consécration éclatante par l'exécution immédiate des nouvelles institutions.

Le vœu des Puissances amies se trouvant ainsi loyalement et amplement satisfait en ce qui touche le régime administratif applicable à l'Herzégovine et à la Bosnie, aussi bien qu'aux autres parties de l'Empire, vous ne manquerez pas, M. l'Ambassadeur, de constater qu'il ne peut plus exister aucune divergence de vues entre elles et la Sublime Porte.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, October* 17, 1876.

IN continuation of my telegram dated October 12, I have the honour to inclose to you herewith a copy of a Circular despatch which I have just addressed to the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople.

The object of this document is to make the Powers acquainted with the institutions decreed by the Porte and sanctioned by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

These institutions deal with two totally distinct subjects, although both aim at the same object: the one relates to the central government of the country, looking at it from the central authority's point of view; the other relates to the local provincial administration.

Their object is to realize and reduce to practice those reforms which had hitherto not advanced beyond the stage of theory.

I shall first invite your attention, M. l'Ambassadeur, to the fact that this great and solemn measure of reform bears not only the character of a spontaneous act of the Sovereign will, but has also been determined on and worked out since the accession to the throne of His Imperial Majesty our August Master, and this is proved by the Imperial Hatt, in which he announced to his people the general programme of his Government, a programme inspired by an ardent desire for the welfare of all his subjects without any distinction of race or of creed.

As regards the central administration, His Imperial Majesty desires that his subjects should have a share in public affairs under the form and through the medium of an Elective Assembly. This institution, on the importance of which it is needless to lay stress when looking at it as part of the general government of the country, will be completed by the creation of a Senate appointed by the Sublime Porte, which is intended to assist the action of the Government in all measures brought before it.

This work, which taken as a whole gives effect to the greatest concessions that it is possible to make to the spirit of reform, will be put into execution without loss of time; and a Commission, with his Highness Midhat Pasha for President, and composed of officials of high rank, both Moslem and Christian, has already been appointed to work out, and submit for the Sultan's approval without loss of time, bills for constituting the two Assemblies which will hold their sittings in the capital.

As regards the administration of the provinces, the institutions recently decreed are composed partly of a formerly existing organization, which has not as yet been fully developed, and partly of supplementary arrangements specially intended to create a real and permanent check on the acts of the administrative authority, and further to give the people a share in the management of the internal affairs of the provinces by the medium of the General and Provincial Councils, whose attributes have already been described. The Imperial Government, by the creation or completion of this provincial organization, has been prompted by its desire to give all the provinces of the Empire a regularly constituted administration, and to put a stop to every abuse, and at the same time to satisfy the wishes and advice put forward by the Great Powers; and it would seem impossible for Europe, if it judges of this work as a whole, not to recognise that the programme of reforms spontaneously granted by the Sublime Porte fully and unreservedly satisfies the object aimed at.

Hence, M. l'Ambassadeur, you will easily be able to prove how far preferable is the step taken by the Sublime Porte to any special arrangement applicable only to particular provinces to the exclusion of the other parts of the Empire; such a system would only result in destroying the unity of the administration, and in creating certain privileged districts, the immediate effect of which would be to sow discontent among those who did not possess the said privileges, at the very time when the fact that they had always continued in allegiance to their Sovereign would seem to make them more worthy of the favours of the Government.

From these considerations, M. l'Ambassadeur, you will doubtless draw most effective arguments to convince the statesmen, with whom you may have occasion to discuss this question, of the uprightness of the intentions of the Imperial Government, whose sincerity

it is impossible to call in question, since the will of the Sultan so resolutely expressed will without loss of time be most strikingly fulfilled by the immediate and unrestricted completion of the new institutions.

As the wishes of the friendly Powers have been thus loyally and fully complied with as regards the institutions applicable to Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as to the rest of the Empire, you, M. l'Ambassadeur, will not fail to point out that there ought no longer to exist difference of views between them and the Sublime Porte.

Agree, &c.
(Signed) SAFVET.

No. 795.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 30.)

My Lord, *Berlin, October* 28, 1876.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch and telegram of the 19th instant reporting a conversation with the German Ambassador on the subject of the armistice, I took an opportunity of reminding Herr von Bülow that Her Majesty's Govern-ment had not proposed an armistice of one month, but that the instruction sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the 1st of September and 5th of October had been for an armistice of "not less than a month," which was a very different suggestion from that of the limitation of the armistice to one month.

His Excellency recollected the text of the instruction again as I mentioned it to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 796.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 30, 3·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 30, 1876, 11 A.M

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphed last night as follows:—

"Complete Turkish victory; the whole enemy's positions on left side of the Morava captured, with eleven guns. Servian loss heavy, including many foreigners. Turkish loss small. Enemy's positions of extraordinary strength, natural and artificial, literally taken with a run."

No. 797.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October* 30, 1876.

MR. ASHMEAD BARTLETT, just arrived from Deligrad, begs me to report that disloyal feeling in Servia towards the Russians is now intense.

Russian military arrogance and frequent outrage on Servian women has entirely alienated all classes.

Servia fearful of absorption and loss of democratic institutions.

No. 798.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1876.

I HAVE to instruct you to ascertain and report to me on the following points:—

1. Whether the Russian soldiers serving in Servia have been permitted to leave their regiments by the Russian Government for that purpose.

* An identic despatch was addressed to Consul-General White.

2. Whether the Societies which are supplying Servia with money and materials are doing so in violation of Russian law.

3. Whether cannon and rifles, &c., have been sent from Russian Government factories.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 799.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to me the substance of a telegram which he has received from Livadia, and which is to the following effect.

In order to avoid the difficulties arising about a Conference, the Emperor agrees to an arrangement, which, without excluding the Turkish Representative, would admit of the Representatives of the six other Powers coming to a preliminary understanding among themselves.

The telegram goes on to say that if the Plenipotentiaries of the six Powers could meet preliminarily and discuss and come to a conclusion on the bases of peace, the Conference could be opened afterwards in the presence and with the participation of the Turkish Plenipotentiary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 800.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1876.

THE time has arrived when it may be useful that I should place on consecutive record the various efforts which Her Majesty's Government have made for the preservation of peace in Eastern Europe, so that the position taken up by them during the recent negotiations may be accurately defined.

Her Majesty's Government, having reason to believe that the good offices of the Powers would be acceptable to Servia and Montenegro, informed Mr. White, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, on the 14th of August, that though they would not propose mediation unless it were asked for, he might suggest to Prince Milan that an application from him to the Powers for their good offices would be favourably received by England.

On the 24th of August a telegraphic despatch was received from Mr. White reporting that Prince Milan, in the presence of his Foreign Minister, had asked the Representatives of the Six Powers to transmit to their Governments his application for re-establishing peace between the Porte and Servia, and for a prompt cessation of hostilities with that view. His Highness added that it would be desirable to include Montenegro in the pacification.

Her Majesty's Government expressed their satisfaction at receiving this announcement, and lost no time in communicating it to the other Powers. They also instructed Sir H. Elliot to point out to the Porte the extreme importance of not losing this opportunity of restoring peace; since, if hostilities continued, the interference of some of the Powers seemed probable, and the consequences might be fatal to the Turkish Empire.

Some delay arose before the Prince of Montenegro's formal adhesion to the Servian request for good offices was received, and the assent of the Powers could be procured. This having been done, in order to obviate any question as to the mode of proceeding (the Austrian Government having objected to a collective note), Her Majesty's Government took the initiative on the 1st of September, by instructing Sir H. Elliot to propose at once to the Turkish Government an armistice of not less than a month's duration, with a view to the immediate discussion of terms of peace,—the armistice to include all combatants.

The other foreign Representatives at Constantinople supported Her Majesty's Ambassador in making these proposals. The Porte, however, objected to an armistice

notwithstanding the strong representations which Sir H. Elliot was directed to address to them.

On the 14th of September, the Turkish Memorandum in answer to the proposals of mediation was received. It stated the conditions of peace expected by the Porte from Servia, as follows:—

"1. La personne investie de la dignité de Prince de Serbie devra venir dans la capitale pour rendre hommage à Sa Majesté.

"2. Les quatre forteresses dont la garde seulement avait été confiée par le Firman de 1283 au Prince de Serbie, et dont la possession *ab antiquo* était demeurée au Gouvernement Impérial, seront réoccupées par l'armée Impériale comme par le passé; et sur ce point on se conformera strictement aux dispositions du Protocole du 8 Septembre, 1862.

"3. Les milices seront abolies. Le nombre des forces nécessaires pour maintenir l'ordre dans l'intérieur de la Principauté ne dépassera pas 10,000 hommes avec deux batteries d'artillerie.

"4. Ainsi qu'il est stipulé dans le Firman de 1249, la Serbie sera tenue de renvoyer dans leurs foyers les habitants des provinces limitrophes qui y émigreraient, et, excepté les forteresses qui existent en Serbie *ab antiquo*, toutes fortifications postérieurement établies devront être complétement démolies.

"5. Si la Serbie ne se trouve pas à même d'acquitter l'indemnité dont le montant sera déterminé, le tribut actuel de la Principauté sera augmenté de l'intérêt de la somme représentative de l'indemnité.

"6. Le Gouvernement Ottoman aura le droit de faire construire et exploiter par ses agents ou par une Compagnie Ottomane, à son choix, la ligne qui devra relier Belgrade au chemin de fer aboutissant à Nisch."

The Memorandum added, however, that the Imperial Government submitted these conditions entirely to the judgment and equitable consideration of the Mediating Powers. With regard to Montenegro, the Porte held to the *status quo*. As soon as the Powers had expressed their judgment on the conditions, the Porte would give orders to suspend hostilities within twenty-four hours, and resume friendly relations with the two Principalities.

A message was at the same time delivered to the Dragomans of the Embassies to the effect that, without waiting for the opinions of the Powers, the order for the cessation of hostilities would be sent that night or the next morning. The demand of the Powers being thus practically complied with, it was hoped that they would induce the two Princes to give corresponding orders.

Her Majesty's Government expressed satisfaction on the receipt of this intelligence, and instructions were sent to Mr. White to press the Servian Government, if necessary, to give similar orders. It was stated, however, that in so doing, Her Majesty's Government must not be understood as acquiescing in the terms of peace proposed by the Porte, some of which they considered to be quite inadmissible.

On the 17th of September Sir A. Buchanan reported that the Porte had notified in writing a suspension of hostilities until the 25th.

On the 18th Sir H. Elliot was instructed to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government accepted the suspension of hostilities as equivalent to an armistice, in the confidence that it would be further extended in case of necessity, and that they had reason to believe from the language held by the Russian Ambassador that his Government would take the same view.

In the meanwhile Her Majesty's Government, finding that the Porte objected to an armistice, but were prepared to negotiate terms of peace, had been in communication with the other Powers respecting the provisions which might properly form the basis of pacification, and which I had, in the first instance, communicated to the Russian Ambassador. They were—

The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

Administrative reforms in the nature of local autonomy for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Guarantees of a similar kind against maladministration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

And it was added that any modification of the Treaty of Paris unfavourable to Servia, the resumption of the right of Turkey to garrison Servian fortresses, or the deposition of Prince Milan, would be regarded as inadmissible.

The Austrian Government having objected, in the first instance, to the idea of autonomy as applied to the insurgent provinces, it was explained that by the phrase "local or administrative autonomy," as applied to Bosnia and Herzegovina, nothing

more was intended by Her Majesty's Government than a system of local institutions which should give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There was no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Upon receiving this explanation the Austrian Government declared themselves prepared to give, in principle, their complete consent to the proposals, expressing at the same time their desire that it should be formally recorded that the reforms already required from and accepted by the Porte in the Andrassy note should form the basis of the "local autonomy."

The other Powers, while they were unanimous in rejecting the proposals of the Porte, also declared themselves willing to join in recommending the basis proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

Sir H. Elliot was therefore instructed on the 21st of September to state formally to the Porte that the following were the provisions which seemed to Her Majesty's Government proper to form the basis of pacification:—

1. The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

2. That the Porte should simultaneously undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy, by which is to be understood a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against maladministration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

His Excellency was instructed to add that the reforms already agreed to by the Porte in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th of February last would be expected to be included in the administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and, so far as they might be applicable, for Bulgaria.

He was further to state that as the continuance of hostilities, while the conditions of peace were in consideration between the Powers and the Porte, would be obviously inexpedient, an early arrangement should be made for the conclusion of a formal armistice.

After conferring with his colleagues, Sir H. Elliot fulfilled the instructions given to him, and communicated on the 25th September the conditions of peace proposed by Her Majesty's Government, which were supported a few days later by the Representatives of the other Powers, including Russia.

On the 24th of September Sir H. Elliot reported that the Porte had not yet consented to a formal armistice, but was willing to prolong the suspension of hostilities until the 2nd of October.

Prince Milan, however, rejected the proposal, professing himself ready to conclude a regular armistice, but not an arrangement like the one hitherto in operation, which he considered ill-defined.

Her Majesty's Government, in reply, expressed their surprise that Servia, after having asked for the mediation of the Powers, should have thought fit, without further consultation, to refuse the prolonged suspension of hostilities offered by Turkey; and this at a time when endeavours were making to obtain for her more favourable terms of peace than the issue of the campaign gave her a right to expect. They thought it proper to add that any attempt on the part of the Servian commanders to renew active operations would throw on Servia the responsibility of the consequences, and forfeit the support of England. Hostilities were, nevertheless, resumed, and in explaining the action of Russia in the matter, Count Schouvaloff told me that though his Government had advised the Servian Government not to renew hostilities, yet that they could not press the matter, as they had from the first required the conclusion of a regular armistice.

It had, in the meantime, become evident that the Turkish Government entertained strong objections, both to the signature of a Protocol promising reforms in the insurgent provinces, by which they said the prestige and authority of the Porte in all parts of the Empire would be impaired, and to the expression of "local autonomy" as applied to those reforms.

On the 26th September, Count Schouvaloff communicated to me proposals from the Russian Government that, in the event of the terms of peace being refused by the Porte, Bosnia should be occupied by an Austrian and Bulgaria by a Russian force, and the united fleets of the Powers should enter the Bosphorus. The Russian Government stated themselves, however, to be willing to abandon the proposal of

occupation if the naval demonstration was considered sufficient by Her Majesty's Government.

General Sumarokoff arrived in Vienna at the same time with a similar proposal.

On the 3rd of October a suggestion was made in conversation with Count Schouvaloff that in case of an unfavourable reply from the Porte to the proposals then before it, the Powers should fall back upon their original demand for an armistice.

Count Schouvaloff said that he would telegraph this suggestion at once to Livadia, and on the following day his Excellency called and read to me a telegram from Prince Gortchakow which he had received, although he was not certain that it was in answer to his message. Prince Gortchakow's telegram was to the following effect:—

A regular suspension of hostilities of sufficient length not having been established, and the negotiations for peace having encountered unexpected difficulties at Constantinople, the contest had been renewed in the valley of the Morava.

The Imperial Government could not be indifferent to the bloodshed thus caused, and the Emperor proposed to the Guaranteeing Powers that it should be arrested by immediately imposing an armistice or truce of six weeks on both parties, so as to give the mediating Governments time to consider the means of definitively arranging the pending questions.

I had no difficulty in submitting this proposal to my colleagues, and informed Count Schouvaloff that Her Majesty's Government had decided to give their support to the proposal of an armistice of not less than a month as the next step to be taken in the event of the rejection by Turkey of the proposed terms for a basis of peace. They had, I said, on the other hand, been unable to concur in the measures of occupation and the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus which had been previously suggested by Prince Gortchakow.

Sir Henry Elliot was accordingly instructed, on the 5th, in the event of the terms of peace which had been proposed by the Powers being refused, to press upon the Porte as an alternative to grant an armistice of not less than a month, and to state that, on the conclusion of an armistice, it was proposed that a Conference should immediately follow. He was further to intimate that, in case of the refusal of an armistice, he was instructed to leave Constantinople, as it would then be evident that all further exertions on the part of Her Majesty's Government to save the Porte from ruin would have become useless.

Her Majesty's Government, at the same time, informed the Governments of the other Powers of this proposal of an armistice, and the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that the armistice should be followed by a Conference.

The plan of renewing the demand for an armistice received unanimous support, but the suggestion of a Conference gave rise to some objections and inquiries. The Austrian Government, in a despatch, the substance of which was communicated to me by Count Beust on the 9th of October, while stating their desire not to thwart the action of England, requested information on the following points:—

1. Whether the Porte is to take part in the Conference.
2. Where the Conference is to meet.
3. If the Conference is to be composed of the Foreign Ministers of the respective countries, or of Plenipotentiaries.
4. What is to be the programme of the Conference.

They stated that it would depend upon the information derived from the answers to these questions whether they could waive the objections they entertained to the idea. Until then they were of opinion that a Commission at Constantinople, such as had previously been suggested, would be a preferable plan, and would more profitably employ the time allowed by the armistice.

As Count Beust did not ask for an immediate reply to the above queries, I told his Excellency that I must reserve my opinion on the first point, namely, whether or no the Porte should be represented in the Conference. It would be necessary to ascertain the views of other Powers, which were still unknown to me.

As to the second question I must equally reserve a final expression of opinion; but, personally, I was inclined to think that Constantinople would be on various accounts the most convenient place of meeting.

As to the third, I considered that the personal attendance of the various foreign Ministers at a Conference, whose sittings might last some time, would be in many respects unadvisable.

As to the fourth, I agreed in the view, which I understood to be that of Count

Andrassy, that a Conference without a basis was not likely to lead to good results; and I thought that a programme, more or less definite, ought to be agreed upon before it met; but the terms of such programme would require care in framing, and I could only say that it should be submitted to the Powers in due course.

On the other hand it appeared that the Russian Government were likely to stipulate for the exclusion of the Turkish Representative from at least the first portion of the deliberations of the Conference—a step which seemed to make it undesirable that Constantinople should be the place of meeting.

In a despatch addressed to your Excellency on the 11th of October, I reverted to the subject of the influx of Russian volunteers into Servia, which had already formed the subject of conversation between Count Schouvaloff and myself. I pointed out the embarrassment caused to the Roumanian Government by the passage of these volunteers through their territory, and stated that Her Majesty's Government considered that the Government of Prince Charles had some right to complain that their conscientious efforts to remain neutral were thus thwarted. I went on to say that the Government of Great Britain would be the last to suggest the repression of sympathy with a popular cause as long as it did not exceed the limits prescribed by international law, but that the presence of Russian officers and soldiers in the Servian army had assumed proportions little short of national assistance.

If the Emperor of Russia was as sincerely desirous of a speedy and peaceful termination of the war as Her Majesty's Government believed him to be, he could scarcely be insensible to the difficulties thus thrown in the way of a settlement.

The assistance so openly given to Servia must tend to excite irritation and suspicion in the minds of the Turkish Ministers, and at the same time to raise the hopes of the Servian Government and render them less inclined to listen to reasonable terms. Beyond this there was the danger, that the presence of so large a foreign element in the Servian army might lead to a spirit of insubordination and constitute its commanders into military chiefs, independent and impatient of the control of Prince Milan's Government.

These considerations Her Majesty's Government wished to press on the serious attention of the Emperor and his advisers, and you were instructed to take an opportunity of expressing yourself to the Russian Government in this sense.

On the 12th of October the Turkish Government communicated to the Representatives of the Mediating Powers at Constantinople a note, in which they stated that, taking act of the proposal of the Powers for the re-establishment of peace with Servia and Montenegro on the basis of the *status quo ante*, and while declaring themselves ready to submit to the decision of the Powers on the conditions they had themselves proposed, they were ready to consent to the conclusion of a regular armistice. They considered, however, that it should extend to six months from the 1st of October to the 31st of March. They requested, at the same time, that the Powers should name delegates to arrange the terms of the armistice on the spot, and stated that they were ready at once to give the necessary instructions to their troops, and that then the delegates would have to come to an understanding with the commanders of the contending armies on the details of the armistice, and with respect to the necessity of not permitting the Servians to re-occupy the positions now in the possession of the Imperial troops. The Porte further hoped that the Powers would take measures to put a stop to the introduction of arms and munitions of war into the Principalities, as well as to the influx of volunteers, and felt confident that the Powers, while impressing on the Principalities the necessity of scrupulously observing the obligations imposed by the armistice, would be able to prevent all attempts on their part to encourage directly or indirectly the insurrectionary movements in the neighbouring provinces, or to furnish aid to the insurgents.

On the same day a general scheme of reform was promulgated for the whole Ottoman Empire, the substance of which was communicated to me on the 13th by the Turkish Ambassador. These reforms consisted in the establishment of a Senate and of a Representative Assembly to vote the budget and taxes, a revision of the system of taxation, the reorganization of the provincial administration, the full execution of the law of the vilayets, with a large extension of the right of election, and other measures of reform, including the practical measures which had been desired to be introduced into Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

Immediately on learning by telegraph from Sir H. Elliot the intention of the Porte to grant a six months' armistice, I pressed upon Count Schouvaloff and Count Beust the importance of their Governments inducing Servia to accept the armistice.

I also urged this through Her Majesty's Embassies at Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburgh, and Rome, and sent instructions in the same sense to Belgrade and Montenegro.

The Russian Ambassador expressed his doubts whether the armistice would be accepted at Livadia. I thought it right to warn his Excellency that, however strong might be the feeling of national indignation against Turkish cruelties, it would be superseded by a very different sentiment if it were once believed by the English nation that Constantinople was threatened. I said that, rightly or wrongly, the conclusion to which every one here would come would be that the rejection by Russia of the Turkish proposal indicated a fixed purpose of going to war; and I entreated him to omit no effort to make his Government understand the light in which this resolution would be viewed by the English people.

On the 12th I learned from Lord Lyons that the French Government would send immediately instructions to the French Agent at Belgrade to urge the Servians to accept the armistice, and on the 13th the Austrian Ambassador informed me that his Government accepted the proposal of six months' armistice, would do all in their power to procure its acceptance by other States, and would use their best efforts in that sense both at Belgrade and with the Prince of Montenegro. They still declared, however, that they could not determine their course as to a Conference without knowing the programme. They considered the exclusion of a Turkish Representative contrary to the Treaty of Paris, and they hoped that the questions of armistice and Conference might be kept separate, and the armistice agreed to without being complicated by considerations as to future negotiations.

On the 12th the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople had expressed himself against a long armistice, and when reminded by Sir H. Elliot that his Government had asked a short time previously for one of three months, replied that circumstances had changed, and he did not believe that his Government would be satisfied with the present proposal; and on the 16th Count Schouvaloff communicated to me the telegram from Prince Gortchakow, dated Livadia, October 14th, of which the following is a translation :—

"We do not think an armistice of six months necessary or favourable to the conclusion of a durable peace, which we desire. We cannot exercise pressure on Servia or Montenegro to make them consent to the uncertainty of their difficult situation being so prolonged. Lastly, we consider that the financial and commercial position of all Europe, already intolerable, would suffer still more from this delay. We must insist ('devons insister') on an armistice of a month or six weeks, the original proposal of England, subject to its being prolonged if the progress of the negotiations shows it to be necessary."

I told Count Schouvaloff that I had received this communication with regret, and pointed out to him that the proposal of Her Majesty's Government was for an armistice of "not less than a month;" no objection being taken on our part to a longer term.

The Italian Government likewise demurred to the proposal for a long armistice.

Under these circumstances Her Majesty's Government thought it right to make an appeal to that of Germany, which had hitherto remained uncommitted to either view. I accordingly requested the German Ambassador to lay the matter before the Cabinet of Berlin, and to inquire whether they saw an opportunity of exerting their influence to procure the acceptance of some compromise which might avert the danger, now to all appearance imminent, of an open rupture between Turkey and Russia.

On the 19th instant his Excellency communicated to me Prince Bismarck's reply, which was to the effect that although an armistice of six months appeared to the German Government acceptable, and they would have wished Russia to accept it, they did not think that taking into account the position they had held till then, they would be justified in exercising a pressure on the resolutions of other Powers. Prince Bismarck suggested, however, that perhaps an armistice of six weeks might offer some chance of a solution.

In this state of things, as it was evident that any efforts to bring about the acceptance of the Turkish proposal of a six months' armistice by Servia and Montenegro were checked by the attitude of Russia, Her Majesty's Government felt that further efforts on their part were useless. I therefore informed the Russian Ambassador that having accepted the Turkish proposal for a six months' armistice, Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to withdraw their acceptance or to make any new proposition. I stated, however, that Her Majesty's Government would offer no objection to a shorter term if the Porte were willing to consent to it, but that they would not press the Porte to do so.

I have since learned from Sir Henry Elliot that the Porte has informed the Russian Government that they agree to an armistice of six weeks, on condition that if the negotiations are not ended by that time, it should be renewed for a similar term, and again for two months if the second period passed without result.

In the foregoing summary of the negotiations, I have indicated the successive steps which Her Majesty's Government have taken to secure an agreement among the Powers. Upon the application of Servia for their good offices they first obtained the support of all the Powers to a proposal to the Porte of an armistice of not less than a month, and on the Porte advancing terms of peace as a counter-proposal, Her Majesty's Government submitted to Russia in the first instance, and then to the other Powers, provisions which might in their opinion form the basis of pacification, and which likewise secured the concurrence of the Powers. When subsequently difficulty occurred in obtaining the acceptance of these provisions by the Porte, Her Majesty's Government, again in concert with Russia, recommended that the proposal of an armistice should be reverted to and pressed it upon the Porte in the strongest manner of which diplomatic action will admit, at the same time suggesting a Conference—a suggestion which, from what had previously passed, Her Majesty's Government had reason to suppose would also prove acceptable to the Russian Government. If obstacles have been interposed which have frustrated the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, they have not been occasioned by any failure on their part to meet objections in a conciliatory spirit. The object which has been sought throughout has been to arrive at a speedy and durable pacification.

Her Majesty's Government have felt that the continuance of the present war, which was commenced in defiance of the public remonstrances of Russia and the Powers, is all the more lamentable from being unnecessary, since there are no avowed ends to be attained by it which could not be better and more surely arrived at by peaceable discussion. It has long been evident that, so far as the improvement of the condition of the disturbed districts of Turkey and of the non-Mussulman population generally throughout the Empire is concerned, the unaided action of Servia and Montenegro could have no practical effect, and that, from the time when the question passed into the hands of the Mediating Powers, further bloodshed served only to add to the distress and misery of the population.

Her Majesty's Government have done all that has been in their power to procure the cessation of hostilities and the re-establishment of peace for which Servia and Montenegro appealed to their good offices. They believed that this would be accomplished by a prolonged armistice, and supported that proposal accordingly, feeling convinced that such an armistice meant peace; nor could they regard the period as unreasonable, inasmuch as the discussions which took place in 1861 with regard to the constitution of the Lebanon occupied from the 22nd of January to the 9th of June. They regret that other counsels have prevailed, and that the uncertainty of the situation has thus been continued, with the commercial and agricultural distress which must ensue from it in Servia and Montenegro and the adjacent districts. They are unable to see how the constantly impending possibility of war can be otherwise than ruinous to all the countries concerned, and would hail with satisfaction any proposal which might bring such a state of things to an end.

They cannot, however, consider that it lies with them to advance any fresh propositions, and, while most anxious to co-operate with the other Powers in any measures of pacification in which the Powers may concur, must refrain from pledging themselves to anything which may impede their liberty of action hereafter should the rights and interests of this country be affected.

Your Excellency will read this despatch to Prince Gortchakow, and give his Excellency a copy of it, stating at the same time that Her Majesty's Government feel assured that he will find in it a convincing proof of the earnest desire which they have shown to act in concert with the Russian Government, and to maintain in all respects the good relations subsisting between Great Britain and Russia.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 801.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and read to me a telegram from Count Andrassy.

His Excellency stated in it that Austria had in the first instance declared herself in favour of an armistice of six months, as proposed by the Porte, believing that a long suspension of hostilities offered the best chances for the conclusion of a permanent peace.

Now, however, Count Andrassy said, that the Turkish proposition had been definitely set aside, in consequence of the opposition of some of the Powers, and that all the Cabinets—especially that of London—had adhered to the new proposal, the Austrian Government had determined on instructing Count Zichy to unite with Sir H. Elliot in recommending an armistice of six weeks, under the conditions for prolongation proposed by General Ignatiew.

I explained to Count Beust, in reply, that Sir H. Elliot had not been instructed to support the proposition of General Ignatiew, but only to state that Her Majesty's Government would not offer any objection to it if the Porte thought that, under the circumstances of the case, compliance was better than refusal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 802.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Holmes.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1876.

IN reply to your despatch of the 13th instant, I have to convey to you my approval of the steps which you have taken to procure the removal from Bosnia of a fanatical Turk named Hadji Lonjo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 803.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 31.)

My Lord, *Tunis, October* 24, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th of September, on the subject of the public subscription which His Highness the Bey had authorized in aid of the Sublime Porte, I have the honour to state that the money collected amounts to 2,300,000 Tunisian piastres (54,760*l.*).

Half of this sum has been already forwarded to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 804.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 31.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 21, 1876.

COLONEL THÖMMEL and I were taking a walk yesterday evening in the outskirts of Cettigné, when we met Prince Nicholas, accompanied by the Vladika, and a detachment of guards, hurrying back to the town. His Highness, on seeing us, exclaimed, "I have excellent news to tell you;" and it appeared that he had just received a telegram announcing the capitulation of Medun. His Highness was naturally overjoyed; the more so, as news had already been received that Dervish Pasha had withdrawn from the positions he had recently occupied on the Montenegrin frontier near Spuz, so that on the Albanian side Montenegro has been evacuated by the enemy. The

Prince read us the telegram respecting Medun amidst the enthusiastic "zivios" of his attendants. We accompanied His Highness to the palace-door, where the detachment of guards fired three volleys, and were then glad to escape into the inn, as every one in the streets, and at the doors and windows of the houses, hastened to discharge his revolver, heedless of the fact that they were loaded with ball cartridge. It being already dusk, the town was forthwith illuminated, and the whole Russian colony repaired in haste to the palace to offer their congratulations, not without having first taken care to express their loud delight at the probability that there would be no more question of an armistice!

The fall of Medun is doubtless a very important success for the Prince. It disengages a large Montenegrin force, which may be employed to overwhelm Moukhtar Pasha, who is in a very dangerous position on the Herzegovinian frontier; or the same force may be directed towards Servia, to threaten the Turkish communications with Roumelia; and especially will the event be of influence, by the sensation it will immediately produce upon all the hill tribes of Albania.

The mail closes so early this morning that I doubt if I shall have time to report to-day the result which a night's reflection on this great success has had on the Prince's mind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 805.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, October 28, 1876.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, in which I gave your Lordship the substance of the reply of the Prime Minister, Prince Auersperg, to two questions which had been addressed to the Austrian Government in the Reichsrath, respecting the action of the Imperial Government in the Eastern Question, one of which was signed by 115 members of the Constitutional party, and the other by members of the Czech-Slavonic section, I have now the honour to inclose a translation, *in extenso*, by Mr. Charlton, of these questions and the replies given to them.

Inclosure in No. 805.

Extract from the "Neue Freie Presse."

(Translation.)

HAS the Imperial Government influenced, as far as its duty permitted, the conduct of foreign affairs with respect to the Eastern question; with what object has it done so, and is it prepared to accept responsibility for the policy which will be pursued by the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in the matter?

2. Has the Imperial Government exercised this influence so as to secure peace for Austria-Hungary in the event of the Eastern difficulties resulting in a war, and especially so as to stay any attempt at an acquisition of foreign territory?

3. Does the Imperial Government consider that its influence will prevail in this respect?

Prince Auersperg replied to the foregoing three interpellations in the following terms:—

"Although our Constitution does not empower us to influence directly the conduct of the foreign affairs of the Empire, such an influence must, nevertheless, of necessity arise from its reactionary effect on the internal policy of the country.

"The Imperial and Royal Government has not deviated from its sense of duty in this respect, but has throughout, in every phase of political action, received the fullest explanations from the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Government has not thought fit to exercise any more decided influence, because the policy of the Minister for Foreign Affairs which they had endorsed from the first, and which had besides been approved of by the Delegates, has been strictly adhered to. The Cis-Leithanian Government is in a position to state that at the present moment the conduct of our foreign policy has, by its continual peaceful efforts, done much for the cause of the peace of the Empire, as well as for that of Europe.

The responsibility for the conduct of foreign affairs falls principally, according to

the Constitution, on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who considers it to be not only his duty but also his right to assume that responsibility. The Imperial and Royal Government is no less ready to bear its own share.

"As regards the second and third questions I am in a position to state that, as the policy of the Monarchy has been all directed to the maintenance of peace, it is free from all thoughts of conquest. No one appreciates the blessings of peace more fully than the Government of His Imperial and Royal Majesty. The whole conduct of our foreign policy is in itself a proof of the honesty and consistency of their efforts. We are therefore in a position to declare that the Foreign Minister, with the full approval of the Imperial and Royal Government, will endeavour to maintain the general peace, even in the case of those eventualities mentioned in the interpellation, and will continue to use all the means in their power to maintain the peace of the Monarchy.

"At the same time it must also be kept in view that these efforts find their natural limits in the duty of maintaining energetically the interests and security of the Monarchy under all circumstances.

"A policy which was merely one of peace, without this limitation, would, it is true, give precedence to the interests of the Monarchy, but would not be really calculated to secure peace.

"I have sketched the line of policy followed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and which has been approved of by the Imperial and Royal Government. I have only to add that the Foreign Minister is determined not to be led away from the policy to which he has steadily adhered, either by manifestations of a warlike nature or by declarations which might possibly be prejudicial to the power and dignity of the Monarchy."

In reply to a further question as to whether the Government is prepared to obtain from the Foreign Minister, and to communicate to the House, the necessary explanations as to what measures have been and will be taken in order to procure such a political position in the Balkan Peninsula as would express the interests of the Empire, as well as the wishes of the Slav population, and bring about a peaceful solution of the questions affecting the Christian inhabitants of that district, Prince Auersperg said:—

"The policy of the Common Ministry for Foreign Affairs is not guided by the interests of particular nationalities, but exclusively by those of the whole Monarchy, and this is more particularly the case as the interests of the whole Monarchy are the same as those of its different parts.

"From the beginning of the Oriental difficulties the Foreign Office, in concert with the Government, has kept two objects in view, viz., the maintenance of European peace and the amelioration of the Christian population in the Balkan Peninsula.

"This policy, the object of which is that the Christian population of the East should obtain the blessing of quiet and civilization, is in the interest of the whole Monarchy, and does not require to be influenced by the promptings of separate nationalities."

No. 806.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 30, 1876, 10·20 P.M.

AN agreement is very nearly come to between the Porte and General Ignatiew about an armistice of two months, to be prolonged for six weeks if the progress of the negotiations should make it necessary, with further prolongation of six weeks, upon understanding to be come to between Porte and the Powers.

Some slight modifications appear, however, necessary in the terms of the arrangement, which I hope may be effected to-morrow.

No. 807.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 30, 1876, 11 P.M.

THE Russian Representative is of opinion that the Porte will consent to the six weeks' armistice, and that he will make representation here accordingly.

If my colleagues receive instructions to support him, and supposing that I hear in time of the Porte's acceptance, am I authorized to join them.

No. 808.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

THE following appears in Reuter's telegrams in this evening's newspapers :—

"*St. Petersburgh, October* 31.

"The 'Official Gazette' of to-day announces that General Ignatiew has been instructed to demand from the Porte the acceptance, within forty-eight hours, of a six weeks' armistice, and a suspension of hostilities.

"Should the Porte not accept, all diplomatic relations between Russia and Turkey will be broken off, and General Ignatiew, with the whole *personnel* of the Russian Embassy, will leave Constantinople."

No. 809.

*Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received October* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 31, 1876.

THE following paragraph appeared in the official part of this morning's "Journal de St. Pétersbourg":—

"*St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{18}{30}$ *Octobre,* 1876.

"Sa Majesté l'Empereur a daigné ordonner aujourd'hui $\frac{30}{18}$ Octobre que l'Aide-de-camp Général Ignatiew déclare à la Sublime Porte que si dans un délai de deux jours elle n'accepte pas un armistice de six semaines ou de deux mois, et si elle ne donne pas des ordres immédiats pour arrêter les opérations militaires, l'Ambassadeur quittera Constantinople avec tout le personnel de l'Ambassade et les relations diplomatiques seront rompues."

(Translation.)

"*St. Petersburgh, October* $\frac{18}{30}$, 1876.

"His Majesty the Emperor has this day, October $\frac{30}{18}$th, deigned to order the Aide-de-Camp, General Ignatiew, to declare to the Sublime Porte that if, within two days, it does not accept an armistice of six weeks or two months, and if it does not give immediate orders for the suspension of all military operations, the Ambassador will leave Constantinople with all the members of the Embassy, and diplomatic relations will be broken off."

No. 810.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1876.

I HEAR from the Porte that Alexinatz is taken.

No. 811.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.†

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and confirmed the statement which had already appeared in a Reuter's telegram, as published in the "Gazette de St. Pétersbourg," that General Ignatiew had been instructed to demand an answer to the Russian proposal of armistice within forty-eight hours, under threat of breaking off diplomatic relations with the Porte.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

† Substance telegraphed, and repeated to Embassies.

No. 812.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1876.

MR. CONSUL BLUNT, in his despatch of the 13th instant, reports to me that he has urged the Pasha of Salonica to take immediate steps to effect the release of a Bulgarian girl, said to have been carried off from Batak by a Mahomedan of Nevrocup, who is endeavouring to convert her to Mahomedanism.

Mr. Holmes informs me that he has reported to your Excellency on this subject, and I have to state to you that I consider that Mr. Blunt's conduct in this matter should be approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 813.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1876, 12·45 P.M.

IN the arrangement proposed yesterday about the armistice, it was stated it would be concluded under the guarantee of the mediating Powers.

I have said that I am not in a position to give guarantee of Her Majesty's Government for the observance of the armistice, and I suggest that the expression should be "under the mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers."

General Ignatiew also advocates this change.

No. 814.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 31, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1876, 5·50 P.M.

RUSSIAN Government have disapproved the arrangement concerted with General Ignatiew for an armistice of two months' subsequently to be prolonged if necessary, and have ordered him to send in an ultimatum requiring the Porte to accept the armistice of six weeks or two months unconditionally.

If this is not accepted within forty-eight hours, relations between the two countries are to be broken off, and General Ignatiew is to leave Constantinople with all the members of the Embassy.

This ultimatum will be sent in to-night if the Council of Ministers now sitting does not signify to General Ignatiew the acceptance of the conditions.

No. 815.

M. Contostavlos to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, November 1.)

Monsieur, *Légation de Grèce à Londres.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-inclus un exemplaire du discours que M. le Président du Conseil a prononcé dans la séance du $\frac{7}{19}$ de ce mois. Ce discours a servi d'introduction à divers projets de loi, dictés par les circonstances vis-à-vis des éventualités pouvant surgir à l'avenir.

Vous y voudrez bien remarquer, Monsieur, que la ligne de conduite que le Ministère actuel s'est tracée dès le commencement de la crise présente en Orient, reste aujourd'hui encore, telle qu'elle a été dans le passé: attitude pacifique pour le présent; liberté d'action pour l'avenir. Nous comptons rester fidèles à ce programme comme nous l'avons fait jusqu'à présent, et nous souhaitons que les circonstances politiques nous viennent en aide dans l'accomplissement de cette tâche.

Quant aux préparatifs militaires dont il est question dans le discours de M. Coumoundouros et aux projets de loi qui s'y rattachent, vous connaissez très bien,

* Repeated to Embassies.

Monsieur, les raisons graves qui en ont fait une nécessité absolue au Ministère actuel. L'oubli complet des populations Grecques de la Turquie de la part de la diplomatie Européenne, la conduite incompréhensible du Gouvernement Ottoman vis-à-vis de la Grèce dans presque toutes les questions que nous avons eu à traiter avec lui, l'évanouissement des espérances que l'Hellénisme avait fondées sur les recommandations pacifiques de l'Occident; l'agitation des esprits produite dans tout le Royaume Hellénique, par ce triste mécompte dont le Gouvernement porte aujourd'hui la responsabilité, tout cela devait imposer au Gouvernement Royal l'obligation impérieuse de penser à l'armement nécessaire du pays, afin d'éviter le juste blâme de ne pas avoir paré à temps aux éventualités, d'autant plus qu'une de ces éventualités serait pour l'Orient de se voir abandonné à lui-même par la diplomatie Européenne, et autorisé, pour ainsi dire, à régler ses affaires et à décider de son avenir sans l'intervention de l'Europe.

Mais je dois le répéter, toutes ces mesures législatives proposées à la Chambre n'impliquent aucun changement dans la politique de paix que le Gouvernement Royal a pratiquée jusqu'à ce jour, et qu'il se propose de poursuivre aussi à l'avenir. Toute pensée d'offensive qui ne manquerait pas de créer de nouvelles difficultés à la diplomatie, est bien loin de nos vues. Seulement comme nous n'avons pas jusqu'ici engagé notre liberté d'action pour les événements qui pourraient se dérouler en Orient, nous ne pouvons pas non plus l'engager aujourd'hui. Nous aimons toutefois à conserver l'espérance, que la sollicitude des Grandes Puissances pour la paix générale, et l'esprit de justice qui anime les Gouvernements Européens et dont la Grèce a eu tant de preuves jusqu'ici, feront bientôt sortir la nation Hellénique d'une situation dont le Gouvernement Royal est le premier à pressentir toutes les difficultés.

Vous voudrez bien, Monsieur, faire l'usage nécessaire du contenu de ma présente, dans le cas que vous soyez interrogé par M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Grande Bretagne sur les faits y relatifs.

Agréez, &c.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Greek Legation at London.*

I HAVE the honour of forwarding herewith a copy of the speech which the President of the Council delivered at the meeting of the $\frac{4}{19}$ of this month. This speech served as an introduction for divers projects of law, dictated by the circumstances, and in view of the eventualities which may happen in the future.

You will, no doubt, Sir, observe that the line of conduct which the pre Ministry have traced out for themselves from the commencement of the present crisis in the East, remains the same at this moment as it has been in the past: a peaceful attitude at present; liberty of action for the future. We intend to remain faithful to this programme as we have done up to the present moment, and we hope that political circumstances will come to our assistance in the performance of this task.

As to the military preparations, which are alluded to in the speech of M. Coumoundouros, and as to the projects of law which relate to them, you know very well, Sir, the strong reasons which necessarily impose them upon the present Ministry.

The complete oblivion of the Greek populations of Turkey, shown by European diplomacy; the incomprehensible conduct of the Ottoman Government with regard to Greece in nearly all the questions about which we have treated with her; the extinction of the hopes which Hellenism had founded on the pacific disposition of the West; the agitation of mind produced throughout all the Hellenic Kingdom by that unfortunate error, the blame of which rests at the present moment on the shoulders of the Government; all this has imposed on the Royal Government a pressing obligation to provide for the armament necessary for the country, in order to avoid the just blame of not having guarded in time against eventualities; particularly since one of these eventualities would seem to be that the East may find herself deserted by European diplomacy, and authorized, so to speak, to regulate her own affairs and to decide upon her future without the intervention of Europe.

But I should repeat that all these legislative measures proposed to the Chamber do not imply any change in the policy of peace which the Royal Government has pursued up to this time, and which it proposes also to carry out in the future.

Every idea of taking the offensive, which would not fail to create new difficulties for diplomacy, is very far from our intention; only, as we have not hitherto compromised our liberty of action with regard to the events which it is possible may occur in the East, neither will we compromise it now. Nevertheless, we continue to cherish the hope that the anxiety of the Great Powers for the preservation of a general peace, and the spirit of justice which animates the European Governments, and of which Greece has had so

many proofs up to the present time, will very soon free the Hellenic nation from a position the difficulties of which the King's Government is the first to foresee.

You will, Sir, make what use you think necessary of the contents of this despatch, in case you should be questioned by the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Great Britain on the facts relating to it.

No. 816.

M. Contostavlos to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, November* 1.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* $\frac{9}{21}$ *Octobre,* 1876.

VOUS voudrez bien relever du rapport de M. Condourioti ci-joint en copie que la Porte, contrairement à ses engagements, se propose d'établir des colonies de Circassiens dans des localités situées en Macédoine, et nommément dans la Chalcidique, dont tous les habitants sont Grecs.

Cette circonstance m'impose la nécessité de vous entretenir de nouveau de cette question, et de vous charger spécialement de vous appésantir sur la nécessité d'obtenir de la Porte qu'elle fasse une mention formelle de la Macédoine dans l'énumération des Provinces où elle s'engage à ne pas établir des Colonies Circassiennes.

En effet, ainsi que je l'ai expliqué à M. Coundourioti, par ma dépêche du 10 Août dernier, pour que la Grèce soit à l'abri des incursions des bandes de brigands venant du territoire Ottoman, il ne suffira pas d'en éloigner le foyer à une certaine distance des frontières Helléniques, mais il faudra le réléguer au délà des extrêmes limites des provinces habitées par des Grecs, car il est démontré par l'expérience que la contagion du brigandage pourrait facilement se propager aux endroits les plus éloignés du lieu où il a pris naissance.

Indépendamment de cette raison les relations commerciales de la Grèce avec l'Epire, Thessalie, et Macédoine réclament impérieusement que la sécurité des communications ne soit pas à chaque instant troublée par la présence de ces hordes sauvages et pillardes.

Nous ajouterons qu'il serait aussi dans l'intérêt du maintien des bonnes rélations entre la Grèce et la Turquie que les populations Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman n'eussent pas de sujets de mécontentement qui pourraient à la longue les forcer à recourir aux armes contre le pouvoir de la Porte; car toute levée de boucliers des populations unies à la Grèce par la communauté de race et de religion, ne pourrait qu'amener l'altération de nos rapports avec la Turquie et créer de graves complications.

Par suite de toutes ces considérations, j'aime à espérer que le Cabinet auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, voudra bien interposer ses bons offices auprès de la Sublime Porte afin que le Gouvernement Ottoman veuille bien nous donner les éclaircissements nécessaires sur les termes, localités circonvoisines, dont il a fait usage dans sa note en expliquant qu'ils comprennent la Macédoine toute entière. Cette explication devient indispensable pour éviter toute équivoque sur le contenu de cette note dont vous trouverez ci-joint une copie.

M. Coundourioti a reçu l'ordre d'insister auprès de la Porte sur la mention formelle de Macédoine et je me flatte de l'espoir que l'appui bienveillant du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne nous fera pas défaut.

M. Coundourioti signale la nécessité de faire entrer dans les conditions de la paix une clause, par laquelle la Turquie prendrait l'engagement de ne pas envoyer des colons Circassiens dans les provinces de son Empire habitées par des Chrétiens.

Cette idée a déjà été énoncée par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'Italie, qui répondant à une députation, a dit qu'une des conditions de la paix devrait porter sur l'engagement à assumer par la Porte de ne pas modifier les conditions ethnologiques des populations Chrétiennes de son Empire par l'introduction d'éléments hétéroclites.

Je n'ai pas manqué de charger notre Représentant à Rome d'exprimer nos vœux pour que l'Italie prenne l'initiative d'une pareille proposition.

Si l'Europe imposait cette condition à la Porte elle rendrait par là un service éminent à la cause de l'humanité et de la civilisation.

Agréez, &c.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Athens, October* $\frac{9}{21}$, 1876.

YOU will notice in the report of M. Coundourioti, of which I inclose a copy, that the Porte, contrary to her engagements, proposes to establish colonies of Circassians in places situated in Macedonia, and particularly in Chalcidice, all the inhabitant of which are Greeks.

This circumstance compels me to communicate with you again on this question, and to beg you especially to dwell on the importance of obtaining from the Porte a promise of making formal mention of Macedonia in the enumeration of the provinces in which she engages not to establish Circassian colonies.

In a word, as I explained to M. Coundourioti in my telegram of the 10th August last, in order that Greece may be protected from the incursions of bands of brigands coming from the Ottoman territory, it will not be sufficient to remove their haunts to a certain distance from the Hellenic frontiers, but it is necessary to banish them beyond the extreme limits of the provinces inhabited by Greeks, for it is proved by experience that the contagion of brigandage can easily extend to territories the farthest removed from the place where it originated.

Independently of this, the commercial relations of Greece with Epirus, Thessaly, and Macedonia imperatively demand that the security of communications shall not be perpetually disturbed by the presence of these hordes of savages and robbers.

We will add that it is for the interest of the maintenance of good relations between Greece and Turkey that the Greek populations of the Ottoman Empire should not have causes for discontent which might in the long-run force them to have recourse to arms against the power of the Porte; for any uprising on the part of a population united to Greece by a common tie of race and religion, could not fail to disturb our relations with Turkey, and create serious complications.

In view of these considerations, I venture to hope that the Cabinet to which you are accredited will make use of its good offices with the Sublime Porte, in order to induce the Ottoman Government to give the necessary explanation as to the phrase neighbouring localities, which was made use of in their note, in the sense that it was meant to comprise the whole of Macedonia. This explanation becomes indispensable in order to avoid anything equivocal in the contents of the note, of which you will find a copy inclosed.

M. Coundourioti has received orders to insist on the Porte making formal mention of Macedonia, and I venture to hope that the gracious support of the Government of Her Britannic Majesty will not fail us.

M. Coundourioti points out the necessity of inserting a clause into the conditions of peace by which Turkey shall undertake not to send Circassian colonists into the provinces of the Empire which are inhabited by Christians.

This idea has already been enunciated by the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs who, in answering a deputation, said that one of the conditions of the peace ought to lead to an engagement to be undertaken by the Porte, not to modify the ethnological conditions of the Christian populations of the Empire by the introduction of heteroclite elements.

I have not failed to instruct our Representative at Rome to express our hope that Italy will take the initiative in making this proposal. If Europe imposed this condition on the Porte, she would in so doing render a signal service to the cause of humanity and civilization.

I request, &c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 816.

Statement of Circassian Settlements already effected in Macedonia and Thessaly.

Macedonia.—In the neighbourhood of Serres, about 10,000 souls have immigrated since 1863. They are settled in the villages of Niolia, Ormoli, Barakli, Ernikeuy, Houmounto, Elsiani, Demir-Hissar, Boutokowo, Apidies, Soucha-Bania, and Koulia.

In the province of Drama, at a place called Bounarbashi, 500 Circassians were established towards the close of 1866. In the province of Salonica, near Mount Olympus, 5,700 Circassians have been settled, also 450 families at Katerina.

In the province of Bitolia (Monastir), 550 families are settled in different villages.

Thessaly.—In the Province of Larissa 185 Circassians were settled in November

1875, 315 during May, and 225 during September last. Of these 300 are at Armyro, 125 at Balabali, and 50 at Loxada. The others remain provisionally at Larissa and Volo, pending their definite settlement. Besides these, 600 Tartars were imported into Thessaly during August of last year.

Inclosure 2 in No. 816.

Safvet Pasha to M. Coundourioti.

M. l'Envoyé, *Le* $\frac{15}{27}$ *Septembre*, 1876.

J'AI reçu la note responsive que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le 28 Août, relativement au projet attribué au Gouvernement Impérial d'établir des colonies le long de la frontière Hellénique.

En me référant à mes communications précédentes à ce sujet j'ai l'honneur de vous déclarer que la Sublime Porte a décidé de n'établir à l'avenir de ces colonies, ni dans le Vilayet de Janina, qui comprend l'Epire et la Thessalie, ni dans les localités convoisines d'où l'on pouvait aisément passer dans ce vilayet.

J'aime à espérer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Hellénique voudra bien, lorsqu'il aura reçu communication de cette mesure, reconnaître combien nous tenons à faire disparaître jusqu'à l'ombre d'un doute sur notre désir de maintenir et de consolider les relations de bon voisinage qui existent si heureusement entre les deux Etats.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET

(Translation.)

Sir, *September* $\frac{15}{27}$, 1876.

I HAVE received the answer which your Excellency sent to me on the 28th of August relating to a project said to be entertained by the Imperial Government of establishing colonies along the Hellenic frontier.

With reference to my former communications on this subject, I have the honour to inform you that the Sublime Porte has decided not to establish any of these colonies henceforth, either in the Vilayet of Janina, which includes Epirus and Thessaly, nor in the neighbouring localities, from which it would be easy to pass into that vilayet.

I entertain the hope that the Government of his Hellenic Majesty will be ready, on being informed of this measure, to recognize how anxious we are to prove beyond the shadow of a doubt our desire to maintain and strengthen the neighbourly relations which exist so happily between the two States.

(Signed) SAFVET.

No. 817.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 1.)

(Extract.) *Paris, October* 31, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes told me yesterday that the Russian proposal for a limited armistice would be supported at Constantinople by the French Ambassador, and by the Representatives of the other Guaranteeing Powers, and that he had reason, therefore, to hope that it would be accepted by the Porte.

No. 818.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November* 1.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 31 *Octobre*, 1876.

LE Généralissime Abdul Kérim Pacha vient de nous télégraphier qu'après un combat victorieux, l'armée Impériale est entrée glorieusement à Alexinatz.

(Translation.).

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 31, 1876.

THE Commander-in-chief, Abdul Kerim Pasha, has just telegraphed to us that the Imperial Army has entered Alexinatz after a victorious engagement.

No. 819.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received November* 1, 2·9 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 1, 1876, 11·40 A.M.

RUSSIAN ultimatum was sent in last night.

The Consuls in the interior are ordered to go to the sea-ports for greater security, and Russian interests will be entrusted to the German Embassy.

No. 820.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received November* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 1, 1876, 7 P.M.

PORTE will consent to the demands of the Russian ultimatum, and orders are already sent to the Military Commanders to suspend all operations. An answer in this sense will be sent to General Ignatiew this evening.

I have informed Belgrade.

No. 821.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1876.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador called upon me this day, and communicated to me a telegram which his Government has received from Constantinople, to the following effect:—

Count Zichy states that on the 29th ultimo the Council of Ministers had arrived at the following resolution, with a view to put a stop to the war, viz., that an armistice of two months should be concluded, to be guaranteed by the Mediating Powers, to begin on a certain day fixed, and that hostilities should therefore cease immediately. That Delegates should be nominated by the Guaranteeing Powers and by the Porte, and that they should be sent immediately to the theatre of war in Servia and Montenegro, and commence forthwith settling the line of demarcation. If, contrary to expectation, a durable peace should not be concluded by the time the two months is over, a further prolongation of six weeks might be settled, which could be again extended for another six weeks, according to what might be settled between the Sublime Porte and the Guaranteeing Powers.

The Imperial Turkish Government calls upon the bands who infest the territory which is not included in the lines of demarcation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as in other localities, and who continually foment discords in those provinces, to evacuate them in a week's time, and if they do not do so, they will be pursued by the Ottoman troops.

The Porte does not doubt that as this proposition of theirs agrees in all material points, word for word, with the one proposed by General Ignatiew, and as the modification respecting the two months' armistice has been accepted by Russia, the proposals above recited will be completely satisfactory to all the Powers.

Count Beust informed me that Count Andrassy is of opinion, if the conditions of the armistice are as Count Zichy reports, it would be for the general interest, and also for the interest of England, that they should be accepted.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 822.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1876, 11·30 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of the 31st ultimo, I approve your suggestion that the words "under the mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers" should be substituted for the statement that the armistice would be concluded under the guarantee of the Mediating Powers.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 823.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received November* 1, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November* 1, 1876, 8 P.M.

I UNDERSTAND that Servian Government are prepared to accept the armistice as agreed to by the Porte. The terms of the armistice have been made known to them by some of my colleagues, but I have not yet received them from Constantinople.

No. 824.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 1, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November* 1, 1876.

MY audience of the Emperor put off till to-morrow, on account of anniversary of late Empress' death.

I saw Prince Gortchakow yesterday.

On my inquiry whether he had any news, he replied in the affirmative, adding that he preferred that the Emperor should communicate it to me.

I received later from St. Petersburgh telegraphic official notification of the ultimatum which General Ignatiew was instructed to address to the Porte.

I am told by the German Ambassador, who arrived here last night, that the answer is expected here to-morrow, and that hopes are entertained that the armistice demanded by General Ignatiew will be granted, if not opposed by Sir H. Elliot.

No. 825.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 2.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 22, 1876.

IN my despatch of yesterday's date I reported to your Lordship the demonstrations made at Cettigné on the receipt of the news of the capitulation of Medun, and of the withdrawal of Dervish Pasha from the positions he had recently occupied on the Montenegrin frontier in advance of Spuz. The effect upon the influential persons about the Prince was so marked that, after the despatch of the mail yesterday morning, I asked my colleagues whether it was not, in their opinion, our duty to communicate at once to our respective Governments the importance of the recent events; and the possibility not only that the war spirit might be strengthened thereby in Montenegro, but also that the flames of revolt might be kindled among the neighbouring tribes of Albania, and serious complications provoked in other directions.

The reverses which have befallen the Turks prove, I think, that my prognostications as to the impossibility of their obtaining a foothold in this Principality were well founded; and I have little doubt that, if hostilities continue, an irreparable catastrophe will overwhelm Moukhtar Pasha in his turn, and place the Herzegovina at the mercy of Prince Nicholas.

In view of these contingencies my Austrian, French, and Italian colleagues and I determined on telegraphing our opinion of the situation to our Governments; and to point out that, in the interest of the Porte itself, and to stop the effusion of blood and save the country from ruin, it is urgent that a regular armistice—even of short duration—should be concluded at once, in order that the work of pacification may be commenced without further delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 826.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 2.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 23, 1876.

PRINCE NICHOLAS sent yesterday afternoon to all the foreign Agents, and requested them to come to the Palace at 3 o'clock.

The Austrian, French, Italian, and Russian Agents and I waited accordingly upon His Highness at that hour.

The Prince stated to us that, in concert with Servia, he had decided upon accepting the armistice for six weeks only. He referred to the military reasons in favour of that course, pointing out that his people were indifferent to the rigours of a winter in their native hills, whereas the Turkish troops would not only be incapable of campaigning, but would perish by thousands from privation and cold.

His Highness laid especial stress on the fact that the fall of Medun and the retreat of Dervish Pasha to Podgoritza placed at his disposal nine additional battalions with which he could operate in the Herzegovina. He could not afford to lose these advantages, and therefore, unless the Mediating Powers could obtain from the Porte its consent to an armistice of six weeks, Montenegro would consider further negotiation on their part useless.

Upon our expressing a wish that His Highness should fix some precise date from which the armistice should commence, the Prince said that he thought that if he allowed eight days more for negotiation that period ought to suffice, and that then the armistice would naturally expire on the 15th of December. He wished us, therefore, to understand that if a formal suspension of hostilities for six weeks is not agreed to by the Porte before the end of this month, he will regard the mediation of the Powers as terminated, and will at once carry the war into the enemy's country, where he certainly has every chance of success.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 827.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 2.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 23, 1876.

FOUR hundred and seventy-five Turks capitulated at Medun, of whom the Prince has ordered seventy-four to be released and sent to Spuz, they being too weak to be removed to Cettigné. The remaining 400 prisoners will arrive here to-morrow, weather permitting; and I believe that Colonel Thömmel has been, or will be, asked to solicit the Austrian Government to take charge of them, there being no accommodation for them in Cettigné, and every chance that they would suffer severely in consequence.

Fortress Medun has been razed to the ground.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 828.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received November* 2, 6·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 2, 1876, 2·15 P.M.

PORTE'S acceptance of Russian ultimatum was received last night by General Ignatiew, who telegraphed it at once to Prince Gortchakow.

The terms of the note are unexceptionable, and General Ignatiew appears quite satisfied.

He has telegraphed to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro to cease hostilities at once.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 829.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, by which he is desired, now that the question of the armistice is disposed of, to ask Her Majesty's Government, with the view of saving time, to send immediate instructions ("accélérer les instructions") to Sir Henry Elliot to begin preliminary discussions between the Representatives of the six Guaranteeing Powers on the bases of peace proposed by England. It will depend, says Prince Gortchakow, on the decision of the Powers whether the preliminary discussions will be followed by a Conference or by some other form of concert which may be agreed upon by the Powers.

Count Schouvaloff spoke of the importance which his Government attaches to the question of time, and of Prince Gortchakow's desire that the question should be at once gone into.

I promised to consider what he had said and give him an early answer.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 830.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1876.

THIS despatch will be delivered to you by Colonel Lennox, R.E., C.B., V.C., Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, who has been appointed to proceed to Montenegro as British Military Delegate for the arrangement of the armistice between the armies of Turkey and Montenegro, and I have to instruct you to give him every information and assistance in your power in discharging this duty.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 831.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1876.

THIS despatch will be delivered to you by Colonel Lennox, R.E., V.C., C.B., Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, who has been appointed to proceed to Montenegro as British Military Delegate for the arrangement of the armistice between the armies of Turkey and Montenegro; and I have to request you to give him every information and assistance that he may require in proceeding to undertake this duty.

I have to add that Colonel Lennox has been instructed to wait at Vienna for instructions.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 832.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government having determined that the most convenient course will be to appoint Colonel Lennox, R.E., who is proceeding to Constantinople as Military Attaché, to discharge the duty of British Delegate for the arrangement of the armistice between the armies of Turkey and Montenegro, I transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of the letter which I have caused to be addressed to Colonel Lennox,* instructing him

* No. 833.

to proceed to Vienna and await there directions as to proceeding to Montenegro for the purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 833.

Lord Tenterden to Colonel Lennox.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that, as it appears the arrangements for the armistice are to be conducted by Military Attachés, Her Majesty's Government have decided to entrust to you the duty of acting as Military Delegate, on the part of Great Britain, for arranging the armistice between the armies of Turkey and Montenegro.

It will consequently be advisable that you should proceed without loss of time to Vienna, and await there such further instructions as may be hereafter given to you.

I am to add that Major Gonne, the Military Attaché at Vienna, will act as British Delegate with the armies of Turkey and Servia.

You will be able to obtain full information at Her Majesty's Embassy at Vienna with regard to the negotiations for the armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 834.

Lord Tenterden to Colonel Lennox.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you the accompanying despatches addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, and to the Honourable E. Monson,* on special service in Montenegro, requesting them to give you every information and assistance you may require in proceeding to undertake your duties as British Delegate for the arrangement of the armistice between the armies of Turkey and Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 835.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November* 2, 1876, 3·30 P.M.

EMPEROR, at my audience to-day, was in spirit and language most conciliatory and satisfactory.

His Majesty said that his ultimatum to the Porte was occasioned by the news of the complete defeat of the Servians three days ago, and the fear that it might be followed by similar atrocities as occurred in Bulgaria. His Majesty stated that he had received this morning a telegram from Constantinople announcing that the Porte would probably accept proposed armistice. Official answer of the Porte would be given to-day.

His Majesty also read to me another telegram, saying that the Porte had already sent to their military commanders orders to suspend all further military operations. His Imperial Majesty evidently desires that the Conference should meet without delay, and requests that necessary instructions may be immediately sent to Ambassadors at Constantinople for deliberation of preliminaries.

He accepts the peace proposals submitted by your Lordship as basis.

His Majesty expressed his anxious desire for an understanding and co-operation with England. He hoped that the unjust suspicions entertained in England of his policy would be discarded. He pledged his honour that he had no views of conquest or of Constantinople, and repeated this declaration several times and in the most solemn manner.

* Nos. 830 and 831.

All he required was the amelioration of the position of the Christians, but not resting on Turkish promises, in which he had no reliance, but on real efficient guarantees. He said the Treaty of 1856 replaced a Russian by a European Protectorate of the Christians, and since then Europe had not fulfilled this duty.

He wished to maintain the European concert, but if Europe remained passive, he would be obliged to act alone. He could not understand why there should not be a complete understanding between England and Russia when they had a common aim, and when he gave the most sacred assurances of his disinterested policy.

No. 836.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 3.)

(Extract.) *Athens, October* 26, 1876.

THE Ottoman Minister has informed me that he had considered it his duty to ask the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs for explanations respecting the warlike and hostile tone of M. Coumoundouros' speech in the Chamber, of which I forwarded an abridged translation to your Lordship in my despatch of the 21st instant, and that M. Contostavlos had assured him that the speech had been incorrectly reported, and that the words actually spoken conveyed no hostile intentions whatever towards Turkey.

Photiades Bey said that he had reported the step which he had taken and the explanations which he had received to his Government, with whom it would rest to take further notice or not of the speech in question and of the present attitude of the Hellenic Government.

When I saw M. Contostavlos on the following day, he endeavoured to persuade me that the policy of the Government had not undergone any change during my absence, and that the measures proposed for the organization of the naval and military forces of the country did not materially differ from those which had been submitted to the Chamber towards the close of the preceding session; that there was no present intention of engaging in a war with Turkey, but that it was necessary that Greece should be placed as far as possible in a state of preparation for any emergency, in view of the threatening aspect of the Eastern question.

In the conversation which ensued, I took an opportunity of mentioning that it was certainly the wish of Her Majesty's Government that any administrative concessions and reforms which were given by the Porte to the Slav provinces should likewise be extended to the Hellenic populations in Turkey. M. Contostavlos expressed his satisfaction at this, and said that your Lordship had spoken in the same sense to M. Gennadius, and that the Austrian and Italian Governments and he believed the other Powers also would be ready to assist in securing that object.

No. 837.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November* 3.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 2 *Novembre,* 1876.

LE Généralissime Abdul Kérim Pacha nous informe qu'à la suite d'un combat victorieux l'armée Impériale vient d'entrer à Deligrad.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 2, 1876.

THE Commander-in-chief, Abdul Kerim Pasha, informs us that the Imperial Army has just entered Deligrad after a victorious engagement.

No. 838.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 3, 11 A.M.)

(Telegraphic,) *Rome, November* 2, 1876.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs says that he has heard, though he cannot vouch for its truth, that Russia intends to demand expulsion of Circassians from Bulgaria. He

thinks this would be going too far, though when Greece complained of arrival of Circassian families at Volo he urged the Porte not to increase the numbers of Mussulman population in Christian provinces.

No. 839.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 3, 1876.

IN reply to your telegram of the 2nd instant, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have received with the greatest satisfaction the assurance which the Emperor has given to you of his anxious desire for an understanding and co-operation with England, and his solemn statement that he pledged his honour that he had no views on Constantinople nor of conquest.

You will speak in this sense both to His Imperial Majesty and Prince Gortchakow, and you will add that Her Majesty's Government will lose no time in communicating their views as to the proposed discussions and Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 840.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 3, 1876.

I HAD some further conversation with the Russian Ambassador this afternoon on the subject of the communication he had made to me yesterday from his Government, urging that the Representatives of the Six Powers at Constantinople should be at once authorized to commence discussions on the basis of peace proposed by England.

I told Count Schouvaloff that I saw two reasons against giving such instructions.

It was no doubt true that time was of importance, but we must also remember that the matters to be discussed involved very difficult and complicated questions, which could not be settled in haste. It would be good economy to incur some delay, if we could thereby ensure a thorough examination of all the points at issue, with the prospect of arriving at a solid and permanent arrangement.

It seemed to me in the first place that the leading part in such a discussion as Prince Gortchakow proposed would be better entrusted to other persons than those who had conducted the negotiations at Constantinople of the last twelve months. During the course of those negotiations some at least, if not most, of the Representatives at Constantinople had probably become more or less committed to personal views, which would tend to embarrass them and to weaken their position in bringing forward any fresh propositions which the present circumstances might render advisable. A fresh negotiator would be more free to advocate or discuss such propositions, while the permanent Representatives at Constantinople, supposing the deliberations to take place there, would be able to assist with their advice and experience.

In the second place, I said, the British Government had always contemplated, in the event of a Conference taking place, that England at least should be represented in it by a special Plenipotentiary. Now that a Conference seemed almost inevitable, there would be something of absurdity in sending out Plenipotentiaries to take part in it, who would find the principal points already more or less settled by preliminary discussions.

The conversation then turned on the question of the manner in which a Conference should be brought about, and I told his Excellency that as there seemed to be some hesitation on the part of other Powers, Her Majesty's Government were prepared to take the initiative in proposing that such a meeting should take place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 841.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 17, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches on the subject of the Circassians sent to the neighbourhood of the Greek frontier, I have the honour to inform you that the Porte has promised in a note to the Greek Minister that none shall for the future be sent to Thessaly or Epirus or the adjacent districts.

This appears to be all that the Greek Government can possibly be entitled to ask with a view to the tranquillity of their frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 842.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 18, 1876.*

FROM the tone of the despatch of the Greek Government to their Chargé d'Affaires in London, of which a copy was inclosed in your Lordship's despatch of the 28th ultimo, it would look as though the difficulties connected with the Greek nationality question were solely attributable to the Porte.

I have continually urged the Porte to give way to the wishes of the Greek Government, and as a matter of policy, to put an end to a question which owes its origin to the organized system formerly in force by which the Greek authorities fraudulently, and contrary to Treaty, gave certificates of nationality to Turkish subjects and withdrew them from the jurisdiction of their Government.

In the negotiations which followed delays were interposed first by the one Government and then by the other; but the principal concessions have unquestionably been on the side of the Turks, while the Greeks have yielded but little of their primitive demands.

The progress made in the negotiation is the result of the conciliatory disposition of their Minister here in executing his instructions.

When I showed him the passage in the despatch inclosed by your Lordship in which it is said that the Porte took care continuously to change its Commissioners, in order that those engaged in the negotiations should be ignorant of what had previously passed, he was much surprised at a statement for which he knew there was no foundation beyond the fact that one of the Commissioners being the Foreign Under-Secretary of State, when that functionary was replaced, his duties had devolved on his successor.

M. Coundouriotti said he would call the attention of his Government to the incorrectness of the charge, which I allude to merely as showing the spirit in which the Hellenic Government have brought the matter before your Lordship.

I have, however, again very strongly urged Safvet Pasha to give way upon the points still unsettled, and he has promised to discuss them with the Greek Minister immediately after the Bairam, when it is to be hoped that an understanding will be come to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 843.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 18, 1876.*

DJEVDET Pasha has been appointed Minister of Justice in the place of Khalil Sheriff Pasha, who will continue Minister without portfolio.

Djevdet Pasha is considered a very able man and a probable future Grand Vizier.

The appointment of Halet Pasha as Minister of Commerce has taken place at the same time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 844.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 4.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, October* 19, 1876.

PRINCE GHIKA, the Roumanian Agent, returned here a few days ago after a short leave of absence.

He describes the state of things in the Principalities as most disastrous, the stagnation of every branch of industry having produced universal private distress, and threatening public bankruptcy.

He had had a conversation with Safvet Pasha, who had spoken to him about the passage through the Principalities of Russian volunteers for Servia, and of the mobilization of the Roumanian army, and he believed that upon both points he had been able to satisfy the Turkish Minister.

He had shown that it was impossible for Prince Charles' Government to prevent the passage of Russian subjects provided with regular passports.

With regard to the troops that had been called out, he had admitted with frankness that the measure had not been adopted with a view to the ordinary autumn manœuvres, but for the purpose of defending the neutrality of the Principalities, and also of keeping in check the Bulgarians established in great numbers in Moldavia among whom much excitement prevailed.

It may be assumed that the Roumanian Government could not regard a Russian occupation of Bulgaria without uneasiness, but it is not long since they declared that in the event of a war, they would side with that Power which promised them their independence, and notwithstanding Prince Ghika's language, the probability of a forcible resistance to the passage of a Russian army is little to be counted on.

No. 845.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 20, 1876.

I HAVE had some conversation with General Ignatiew in reference to a Conference, and asked him what he knew of the place where it would be held, of the manner in which it would be constituted, and of the duties that would be assigned to it.

He said that your Lordship had proposed that it should be held at Constantinople, but that his own Government would prefer it being elsewhere, and he himself strongly shared the same opinion.

I said that I was not aware of your Lordship having brought forward Constantinople as the best place at which a Conference could be held, and I believed, on the contrary, that you had said you reserved your opinion upon the point.

There are, indeed, many objections to it, although some of those which I see may not be precisely such as General Ignatiew would view in the same light.

If a Conference is to end by decisions which are to be imposed upon the Porte, sufficient violence will be done to the feelings of the Turks as an independent nation without the additional humiliation of their being concerted by foreign Representatives in their own capital.

General Ignatiew alluded to the proposed exclusion of a Turkish Representative from the Conference, and spoke of the possibility of overcoming the difficulties that he recognized in the adoption of a course so wholly contrary to international usage, by having a preliminary Conference between the Representatives, and when their projects were sufficiently matured, to have a full Conference, at which a Turkish Plenipotentiary should attend, rather, apparently, to be made acquainted with decisions that had been arrived at than to discuss measures of vital importance to the Empire.

I said that before a Conference was convoked I could understand there being meetings of the foreign Representatives such as we now frequently hold, at which a common course of action might be combined, but that to dignify such meetings by giving them the character of a Conference would be to introduce a new practice of proceeding that would be open to many objections.

The General answered that it would be necessary to have something more formal than such meetings as I had alluded to.

With regard to the duties of the Conference, he said that its object would be to define the administrative autonomy, to concert the measures for giving it effect, and to determine upon the guarantees for ensuring to the Christians their full execution, probably by means of some kind of international control.

The whole of this proposal appears open to the gravest possible objections. If it is thought necessary to define more closely than has already been done by your Lordship what is meant by the expression of administrative autonomy, it would be for the Cabinets to do so rather than for their representatives here, and an attempt to go further, by concerting the measures by which the principles adopted are to be practically carried out in the administration of Turkish provinces, would be little likely to prove successful.

Against the proposal to obtain a guarantee for the execution of those measures by an International Commission or any other direct foreign control, there are many, and, as appears to me, insuperable arguments to oppose.

The weakness of the Government, and the inability of their agents to withstand the influence of persons of local importance, are the cause of much of the maladministration of the provinces, and of the grievances of which the different classes have to complain, and the establishment of a foreign control in any shape, by creating an *imperium in imperio*, would be especially calculated to increase this evil to an extent which must render provincial government nearly impossible.

The Porte would be little likely to submit to a foreign control unless it were to be imposed by the threat of material pressure, and it is far from certain that the mere threat would be sufficient to extort its consent to a measure that will be regarded as fatally undermining its authority.

Although it is in the lot of the Christians that the Powers especially interest themselves, it is the whole administration that requires reform, and harmony between the two races will not be promoted by placing one of them under foreign guardianship, while the other has to rely upon the Turkish officials.

It may, however, be practicable to obtain the guarantee that is required for the execution of the promised reforms in a form less open to objection.

There is reason to believe the new Sovereign to be sincere in his wish to inaugurate a new state of things, and his sincerity might be tested without putting the administration of his Empire under foreign control.

When the Powers bound themselves by the IXth Article of the Treaty of Paris not to interfere individually or collectively between the Sultan and his subjects, or in the internal administration of the country, they took the engagement on the faith of promises which have notoriously not been fulfilled by the other contracting party.

We seem therefore to have an undoubted right formally to intimate to the Porte that we shall not hold ourselves bound to abstain from interference till the reforms promised by the Hatt Houmayoun are fully carried out.

Little beyond the *bonâ fide* execution of that proclamation is required, and upon it we can fairly insist; but I am convinced that if we attempt ourselves to propose the measures by which it is to be effected, or directly to superintend the application of them, we shall enter upon a course which can only lead to disappointment to those who desire the real progress of the Empire.

Russia having formerly pretended to a right of protection over certain subjects of the Sultan, one of the principal benefits obtained by the Treaty of Paris was the adoption of the principle that they were no longer to look for foreign support or interference in their behalf, and I cannot believe it to be politic or desirable that this principle should be abandoned.

It might, as I have said, be partially suspended—if possible for a term fixed beforehand, to give time for the Porte to put into practical execution the measures which have been promised for securing equality to all races; but, if the principle of European interference is once admitted, there can be no doubt which of the Powers will be able to turn it to its own account, nor of the trouble into which it will ultimately lead us.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 846.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 21, 1876.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch I have the honour to inform you that the 200 irregular Circassian cavalry, reported by me as having been sent to Philippopolis, were not intended for service in that district, and were immediately forwarded to Nisch.

This irregular cavalry is stated to be extremely useful as "éclaireurs."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 847.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 21, 1876.

I HAD a long conversation this morning with the Grand Vizier about the punishment of the persons concerned in the cruelties in Bulgaria.

His Highness, as on previous occasions, attempted to excuse the Porte on the ground of the ignorance in which it had been left of what had taken place, and of the conduct of those implicated.

I said it was impossible for me to accept any such excuse.

Nobody had asked that punishments should be inflicted without proper inquiry, but months had elapsed since persons had been pointed out as having been guilty of the most frightful excesses, and still we found them—as, for instance, in the case of Chefket Pasha—retained in posts of honour, without a step being taken to ascertain his guilt or to establish his innocence.

As long as the Porte continued to show this indifference, it must be looked upon as countenancing his misdeeds.

I said that Mr. Baring's reports showed that the Commission, in conducting its inquiry, were desirous of favouring the accused rather than of eliciting the truth, but his Highness might be sure that, unless that investigation was conducted with impartial strictness, there would be no modification in the unanimous judgment passed by Europe upon the conduct of the Porte.

The Grand Vizier said that, in consequence of the facts elicited by the Commission, several fresh arrests had been made of persons connected with the tragedy of Batak, and they would be dealt with as they deserved.

Although his language was not satisfactory, I hope that my observations may not be without some effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 848.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 20, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, copies of three further reports from Mr. Baring, two of them respecting the proceedings of the Commission of Inquiry at Philippopoli, and one reporting a case of outrage which occurred in May at the village of Wradje.

I likewise inclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Marsh, an American Missionary, respecting the state of things in the villages in the neighbourhood of Yamboli. On the receipt of this letter, I communicated its substance to Safvet Pasha, with a request that measures should be taken for the security of this district during the approaching festival of Bairam, and his Excellency has assured me that troops were at once forwarded there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 848.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, October* 12, 1876.

ON the 7th instant I had the honour to inform your Excellency by telegraph, that Achmet Agha and Tossoun Bey were here under arrest. They have both been examined, but the case of the former is far further advanced than that of the latter, as a number of witnesses from Batak and the neighbourhood have been under examination, while as yet only a few regular depositions have been taken from the inhabitants of Dervent.

The other persons who have been arrested for their connection with the Batak affair are Alish Pehlivan of Bania, Achmet Tchaousch of Kara Boulak, Achmet

Tchaousch of Dorkovo, and Hafouz Effendi of Rakitovo. Orders also have been sent to arrest the son of Achmet Agha, who is now somewhere in the district of Drama, in the vilayet of Salonica, and Bektach Metto of Rakitovo.

Mahommed Agha, the chief of the Darkovo Bashi-Bazouks, is in Servia.

Evidence has been given that the son of Achmet Agha collected 500 inhabitants of Batak of both sexes, promised them protection and made them all sit down. The Bashi-Bazouks then surrounded them, and Mollah Ali, Achmet's son, calling up the father of one of the witnesses (Basili), made him lay his head on a log of wood and exclaiming "Bismillah" decapitated him; others were killed in the same way, and in short, out of the 500 only 9 or 10 escaped. The two witnesses of this affair owe their safety to their having bribed some Bashi-Bazouks to protect them. One of them offered his field, his cattle, and even himself in exchange for his life.

Van Oglou Yorgui deposed that he put himself under the protection of one Abdi Tchaousch of Darkovo, who took him to his house and kept him there all night. The following day the two returned to Batak to look for witness's family, and found his wife and brother. As they were going away, Bektach Metto rushed up, killed the brother, and was only prevented from killing witness by Abdi's intervention.

Bektach Metto is also said to have rolled up his sleeves, put on an apron to prevent his being spotted with blood, and yataghan in hand, to have gone into the Church and butchered numbers of people.

Alich Pehlivan, Achmet Tchaousch of Dorkovo, and Hafouz, were all leaders of Bashi-Bazouks, but as yet there is no direct evidence of their having committed any particular act for which they could be condemned. As leaders, however, they must be held more or less responsible for the acts of their men.

Achmet Tchaousch, of Kara Boulak, was examined for the first time to-day, but till his case is further advanced it would be useless for me to give an opinion on it.

Achmet Agha's line of defence is that he had no power to restrain the Bashi-Bazouks; that at one moment they threatened to kill him; and that as soon as the Bulgarians laid down their arms he did all in his power to protect them. He had orders from the authorities at Bazardjik to send them to that place; he consequently sent 250 men under Achmet Tchaoush of Kara-Boulak with orders to go to Bazardjik, and two days afterwards he himself set out with 250 more.

When Achmet Tchaousch arrived at Yeni Mahalle the Mussulmans insisted on his stopping at Batak, which was in a state of insurrection; and Achmet Agha himself, when near Batak, met some insurgents, and consequently gave up the idea of going to Bazardjik.

He was then joined by men from Nevrokop.

Shortly after he had taken up his position the insurgents fired and killed three of his men.

Then 300 men from the district of Tchipin arrived and attacked, and took some of the insurgent fortifications without firing a shot.

The village was then surrounded.

The next morning Achmet Agha sent a man to parley with the insurgents, who, however, shot him down.

Two hours afterwards Said Effendi of Adrianople came out to treat on the part of the Bulgarians, and Achmet told him that if the latter would lay down their arms no harm would be done them.

Said carried this message to the village and returned to Achmet, in company with a Bulgarian, to say that the villagers refused to surrender.

The Bashi-Bazouks then drew nearer to the village, and the inhabitants opened fire, killing and wounding seven Turks.

Achmet advised his men to retreat, which they refused to do, and on the contrary entered the village.

Fighting went on all night, and in the morning Achmet heard that the Bulgarians wished to surrender; he accordingly proceeded to the church and took the survivors under his protection. His losses amounted to about fifty men.

This is, shortly, Ahmet Agha's account of the affair. His examination was very skilfully conducted by Ikiades Bey, who was, I regret to say, frequently interrupted by the Mussulman Members, to such an extent, that at one moment he refused to proceed.

He is the only member of the Commission who really knows how to examine, the others are utterly inexperienced, with the exception of Selim Effendi, who, however, does not take a very active part in the proceedings.

There are many discrepancies and contradictions in Achmet Agha's deposition, which I will point out when I have the honour of forwarding the whole of the evidence to your Excellency, which is of course of considerable length.

On the whole, the depositions of the other Bashi-Bazouk leaders tend to show that he was the recognized head of the movement.

A letter has been found on Alish Pehlivan, written from Constantinople, telling him to be on his guard as a Commission had started to inquire into matters, two of its members being the "Giaours," who had visited Bulgaria before, meaning Yovantcho Effendi and Blacque Bey.

The case against Achmet Agha, as it proceeds, is getting considerably stronger, and if the inquiry is only properly conducted he should, I think, be convicted; but there will be difficulty in proving the graver charge of murder against some of the others.

If, however, the Commission only goes the right way to work about it, I cannot but think, that all these men might easily be convicted of pillage. Their houses should be thoroughly searched by trustworthy persons; I am told that this is being done, but, as yet, I have not heard the result.

Many more women escaped from the Batak massacre than men; comparatively few of the latter were spared, and those that did get away owe their safety to flight, or to their having concealed themselves. The consequence is, that it is difficult to procure male evidence respecting the acts of individuals; but if only the women were examined, I feel sure that much important evidence might be obtained. Since I have been here the Commission has not examined a single woman from Batak, though they tell me they questioned several while there. I have now suggested that two women, whose names I have discovered, and who ought to be able to give evidence respecting the latter portion of the massacre, should be sent for.

The fact is, that the inquiry into the Batak affair should have been held not here, but at Peshtera. It is hard upon the witnesses to bring them down here all the way from their village, and to keep them here for an indefinite time; and the proceedings of the Commission, also, are constantly being delayed by their having to send all the way to Batak for a witness, or for a piece of information.

Tossoun Bey's house was ordered to be searched a few days ago. This important measure has been delayed much too long.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 848.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, October* 13, 1876.

A FEW days ago a Bulgarian named Naiden Oglu Sigor, cashier to Messrs. Guetchoglou and Company of this town, came to me and made a deposition to the following effect, which, though it has reference to events long past, I think it my duty to report to your Excellency.

On the $\frac{18}{30}$th May Mussur Bey, of Wradje, in the district of Widdin, Sandjak of Rustchuk, collected a number of Circassians and other irregulars and marched against a body of 214 insurgents, who had crossed over from Wallachia.

After having defeated this band, Mussur Bey returned and pillaged the monasteries of Archaneglos, Panayin, and Agios Tovanios, situated at about two hours distance from Wradje, and killed several priests.

On his arrival at Wradje he pillaged the churches of Agie Nicola, Vouzni Semio, and Sophia, and about 100 private houses, and also broke open and emptied the communal chest.

After committing these acts of pillage, the Bashi-Bazouks attacked the inhabitants; Mussur Bey himself fired on and severely wounded a woman, and his men massacred twenty persons and wounded about as many more. Among the killed the deponent cited the names of Kossi (jeweller), Paltzo (merchant), Petko (baker), and the son of Petko, Sophiali.

The body of Pope Kooto, superior of the church of Vouzni Semio, was mutilated.

Mussur Bey then gave orders that the town should be burnt, but the timely arrival of 600 soldiers, sent by Colonel Hassan Bey to protect the place, prevented him from carrying out his design.

The troops drove the irregulars out of the town, and the inhabitants thought their miseries were at an end.

They soon found out their mistake, for two days afterwards Hassan Bey arrived with three battalions of regular troops, and called upon the inhabitants to give up their arms, which they immediately did.

Hassan Bey, the Kaïmakam and the Cadi, then sent for the richest men of the town, namely, the three brothers Petchimiak, the two brothers Ankoff, the Archimandrite, Pope Nikoldjo, the two brothers Kristingiak Oglou, Bosnak Dimitri, Paolo Yovantcho Nikolaki, and the deponent, and demanded from each sums varying from 200 to 500 Turkish pounds.

Every single man refusing to pay, Hassan Bey had them imprisoned, together with a number of other citizens, in all about 150, who were plundered of everything they had about them by a Circassian goaler, who also illtreated them continually for four days.

After this some of the captives being no longer able to support their sufferings paid the required bribes and were released. Among this number were Yorgui Anton, Youvantcho Mallio and Kostaki Dimitri.

On the $\frac{28\ \text{May}}{9\ \text{June}}$ 64 prisoners were taken out, their hands tied and sent to Berkowska, eight hours from Wradje, where they spent two nights. From Berkowska they went barefoot to Widdin, two men dying on the journey.

At Widdin they were imprisoned for 34 days in a damp dungeon. At first they were confined there day and night, but after some time the Greek doctor attached to the prison got leave for them to pass their days out of this horrible place; at night, however, they were invariably shut up there. Their sufferings during this period were intense, water was only supplied to them once a day, and the half-baked bread served out was scarcely eatable; they were heavily chained, and the prison attendants beat them cruelly every hour of the day. Many fell ill and two died.

During their imprisonment at Widdin they were joined by 31 of those who had originally been their fellow-prisoners at Wradje; the latter had set out 33 in number, but two of them named Krisko and Andro had died on the way.

Only 35 out of the whole number of prisoners were ever examined before a Tribunal.

After 34 days' imprisonment 32 prisoners were marched in chains to Rustchuk, where they were kept in confinement a month, and then back again to Widdin, at which place they were released and allowed to return to Wradje, seven persons dying of fatigue, &c., soon after their arrival.

I report this case to your Excellency, not knowing whether Mr. Consul Reade has already done so or not, but it shows that a Committee of Inquiry is needed north of the Balkans, just as much as in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 3 in No. 848.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, October* 15, 1876.

YESTERDAY the Commission examined Latif Effendi of Nevrokop, who had been arrested as a leader of Bashi-Bazouks at Batak; as, however, it was clearly proved that he had no connection with the atrocities he was dismissed.

The remainder of the day was occupied in examining a zaptié who was present at the attack on Dervent.

To-day several Turks and Christians were examined respecting the same affair, but they could not or would not give any real information respecting it.

I hear that the Turks of Carlowo and of the neighbourhood are greatly irritated at the arrest of Tossoun Bey, and threaten to wreak their vengeance on the Christians should he be condemned. The authorities would certainly do well to send a few troops there to keep order.

It cannot be doubted that great bitterness of feeling has been excited among the Mussulmans by the late arrests, and even here the Turks threaten a rising should Ahmed and Tossoun not be released.

About 120 cavalry arrived a few days ago from Adrianople, and will be distributed about the country; about four times that number are required; and now that an

armistice of five months appears to have been agreed to, the Porte could, without any difficulty, bring as many troops as it liked from Nisch. Their presence would overawe the Mussulmans and reassure the Christians, who at present think themselves by no means safe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 4 in No. 848.

The Rev. G. Marsh to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Stamboul, October* 14, 1876.

THE Executive Central Relief Committee for Bulgaria have requested me, one of the American missionaries at Eski-Zaghra, to act for them in behalf of the sufferers in Boyadjik. I have been engaged in this work for the past two weeks. This has given me an opportunity to learn in detail the condition of affairs in Sleven, Yamboul, and the villages around.

When I began this service, I found that the Turks were threatening the Christians with massacre. The Christians at first judged it imprudent that anything be done for Boyajik, lest this should become the occasion of fresh attacks on the part of the Turks. I also found that robberies by Circassians, Gypsies, and Turks were prevailing in many of the villages. Even at that time a number of men in Yamboul would have been glad to pay my expenses if I would have come to represent these affairs at Constantinople. But I was on my way to distribute aid in Boyajik and did not consider the danger very imminent. Last Monday I was again in Yamboul, and Tuesday in Sleven. I was surprised to see how the alarm had increased in one week. The first Bulgarians in Sleven told me, with bated breath, that they were in very great fear. They told me that it was well understood that the Turks had held a meeting in one of the mosques, and declared that they would not accept the proposals of the Powers. They say that they will kill all the Christians. The time set for this rising is at Bairam. They threaten on the streets, in the shops, and, I am told on good authority, even in the Medjliss, that they will make a general slaughter. A few of the first Bulgarians in the city begged me to come with all haste, and make known these facts to those who have power to help them. I am here at this their most urgent entreaty and at their expense.

A Bulgarian ecclesiastic had been chosen and sent to Boyajik to help me in distributing aid. As he returned to Sleven Sunday morning, he stopped at a number of the villages on the way. He says that the people told him with tears that the Turks were all threatening to kill them, and they begged him for protection. I can say, too, that wherever I converse with the villagers they ask me, "What is going to happen? Are they going to kill us?"

I could not refuse to listen to the prayers of those who are most sober, and best understand the true condition of affairs. That I might know positively the feelings in other cities, and learn of the welfare of my family before coming here, I travelled a distance of twenty-five hours in a little more than that time, to Yamboul, Boyajik, Yeni Zaghra, Eski Zaghra, and returned for the train at Yeni Zaghra. At Yamboul I called a few reliable men, and they told me that the alarm was such that the people could not attend to their business. As soon as it was known that I was in the city, some men from the middle class came and begged me to do something for their safety. One man told me that he had thought of going with his family to Adrianople. The same rumours prevail at Eski Zaghra, but I do not think that the fear is as great.

In the minds of those for whom I come, this is a question of life and death. I would also add, at the request of those who send me, that the villagers need and deserve immediate protection from robbery, which is constantly occurring. At a village less than an hour from Boyajik two Gypsies came at night, a short time ago, and stole eleven horses from a Bulgarian. In Court the Bulgarian said, "If I had had a single gun, I would not have given them up; but what could I do?" You doubtless know, Sir, that from Yamboul towards the Black Sea there are many Circassians. These men and others are making a regular business of plundering. The poor villagers come into the cities and ask what to do. Every night their cattle, horses, and sheep are being driven off, the rich men are assaulted, and life or money must be yielded. When they sell their grain in the city they are afraid to carry their money home. I have traced up these reports till I am confident that they

are not idle tales. The state of things assumes a most serious aspect. What is the use of distributing aid if the plunderer is to be watching his chance to seize it.

If my words seem excited they simply depict truthfully the excited, alarmed state of feeling in those regions. The dread is increasing, and if not checked is likely soon to be quite equal to that which the people suffered last spring.

Allow me now to state my own views of the situation. The Pasha and Judge in Sleven are kindly disposed towards the Christians. But they are not supported at all by the mass of their people. The Pasha acknowledges that he cannot govern as he wishes. I feel that in both Sleven and Yamboul there really is no Government. I am told that the soldiers in Sleven number 600, besides 400 reserves, workmen in the Government factory. But I, myself, have seen and experienced their lawlessness. The city would be safer without them. There is both in Sleven and Yamboul a great number of Turks, Circassians, and Gypsies who are ready for any deeds, without regard to consequences. If some one would only strike the first blow, I do not believe that there is any power in either city which could prevent fearful massacres and general plunder. It seems to me to be most dangerous and absolutely criminal to allow the mass of the Turks in these places to be threatening slaughter, plunder, and violence. In behalf of these unarmed, helpless, and terrified people, I beg your Excellency to take into immediate consideration their circumstances and the best means to help them.

Allow me to assure you of their gratitude for any aid, and believe me, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE D. MARSH.

No. 849.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 22, 1876.*

ONE of the guarantees contemplated by the Russian Government for the arrangements for the insurgent provinces, appears to be the recognition to the Embassies of the right of selecting the Governors-General, or of controlling the choice made by the Porte.

In speaking on this subject with General Ignatiew, I said that I should be very sorry to take on myself to recommend any one as a Governor-General, and to assume the responsibility for the manner in which he carried on the administration.

In forming our opinions of the qualifications of these functionaries we are entirely dependent upon the reports of our respective Consular Agents, who are very apt not to agree in their appreciation of them.

I know also by experience that a Governor who had been very favourably regarded by our own Consul at one place, on being transferred to another post was frequently reported on in an entirely different manner by our Agent there.

I agreed with General Ignatiew that it would be an advantage to have the Governors named for a fixed period, and I would gladly see them given a greater authority over their own subordinates; but the direct control of the Embassies over their selection is not desirable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 850.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 24, 1876.*

THERE may, perhaps, be grounds for believing that Russia has no fixed plan for going to war with Turkey, but there can at least be no doubt of her determination not to lose the present opportunity of fatally weakening her.

This object will be attained sufficiently for her purpose if special privileges, supported by a European guarantee or control, are secured for the revolted Slav Provinces, while the Greeks who had remained quiet in spite of encouragements and warnings that they would obtain nothing unless they moved, are left in an inferior position, and while at the same time the autonomy expected for the former, as it appears to be understood by the Russians,

would render the Turkish Administration so powerless as before long to lead to a state of anarchy, making further foreign interference necessary.

While this, however, is likely to be the result of the acquiescence by the Porte in all the demands put forward by Russia, unless they can be toned down by the influence of other Powers, a direct refusal of them by the Porte would be followed by effects still more disastrous.

Russia appears to have come to the conclusion that Turkey is finally abandoned by all other Powers, and that she may safely exact what conditions she pleases under a threat of a hostile occupation in the event of a refusal.

She knows full well that Turkey, unaided, is utterly incapable of withstanding any attack from her, either on the European or Asiatic frontier, and in the event of deciding on an occupation of Bulgaria she would endeavour to tranquillize the other Powers by a profusion of professions of disinterestedness and of a determination to confine her operations to the districts where the Christians have lately suffered from the Turks, and where a foreign force is assumed to be necessary for their protection.

The Turks, although according to the best military authorities they could not effectually defend either the line of the Danube or that of the Balkans, would not abandon the country without an attempt to expel the invaders, who might find themselves almost obliged to push forward on Constantinople itself.

If the abstention of Austria can be counted upon there is reason to believe that such an operation could be successfully carried out.

It would be accompanied by insurrectionary movements in many parts of the Empire, and the Russians once established here their voluntary withdrawal cannot be calculated upon, and it is not now too soon for other Powers to consider what measures may be necessary to guard against a contingency which may not be far off, and which must affect their vital interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 851.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 25, 1876.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a report from Mr. Sandison, respecting the conspiracy against the Government.

It is said that, besides the persons already arrested, others of higher position and greater importance are also implicated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 851.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Therapia, October 23, 1876.*

THE persons arrested by the police in connection with a supposed conspiracy against the existing Ministry and the Sultan, do not amount to more than ten altogether.

Five of these, namely, two Cazaskiers (superior Judges), Ramiz Pasha, Kiamil Bey, and a certain Riza Bey, who is known to be closely connected with Mahmoud Pasha, ex-Grand Vizier, being persons of high rank, have all been degraded, and the two Cazaskiers already sent into exile. The remaining eight are still kept here, and would probably have to share the same fate.

The conspirators being extreme fanatics, opposed to liberal reforms, and bent upon carrying on the present war, had, it is said, combined to seize upon the Prophet's standard on the first day of Bairam, and to excite the public feeling and fanaticism against the Sultan and his leading Ministers, namely, Mehemet Ruschdi, Midhat, and Safvet, whom they had marked out for destruction. The Sultan they meant to depose, and proclaim Yusuf Izzeddin as his successor.

Though the Grand Vizier, as your Excellency will remember, represented the matter

in a much less important light, there is sufficient evidence, from all I hear, to show that the affair had in reality a political character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 852.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 25, 1876.*

I RECEIVED this morning your Lordship's yesterday's telegram upon Mr. Baring's Report respecting the Commission sitting under Sadoullah Bey, and I shall communicate your remarks to the Porte.

My own representations on the manner in which the Commission is conducting its proceedings have been very frequent, and as energetic as I could make them, but they will be strengthened by this expression of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government.

I do not, however, anticipate that the Commission will be as barren of result as your Lordship appears to apprehend.

The trial of Achmet Aga has made much progress, and Mr. Baring tells me that he expects him to be found guilty, when the case against Tossoun Bey will be proceeded with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 853.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.— (Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 25, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th instant, inclosing a letter respecting the critical condition of affairs in the Yamboli district, I have the honour to state that, on the 21st instant, I received a telegram from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis reporting disturbances with loss of life in that neighbourhood. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom I at once communicated, had however received no information of anything of the kind, and the report subsequently proved to have been unfounded; Mr. Dupuis telegraphing on the 23rd that no disturbances of any importance had occurred, and Mr. Calvert stating on the next day that the Bairam had passed off quietly everywhere.

Safvet Pasha's assurances to me that troops had been despatched to the places where disorders were thought possible were also confirmed by Mr. Calvert in a despatch, dated the 20th, who wrote, that although the authorities did not apprehend further disturbances, they had nevertheless increased their precautions for the preservation of peace during the Bairam, by sending patrols of cavalry to keep an eye on the villages, and marching troops incessantly through the streets of the towns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 854.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a further Report from Sir Arnold Kemball from the seat of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 854.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters, Camp before Alexinatz, October* 16, 1876.

FROM the subjoined three telegrams (A, B, and C), bearing date subsequent to my despatch of October 9, your Excellency will have learnt that during the past week this army has continued to act entirely on the defensive. On two several occasions the attack which had been ordered on the enemy's position in our rear has been suspended at the last moment, owing to the unwillingness of the Serdar Ekrem, Abdul Kerim Pasha, to undertake offensive operations, such as, in their result, might prejudice the course of negotiations still pending at Constantinople.

On Wednesday, the 11th instant, a telegram was received by his Excellency from the Porte of the same tenor as that transmitted to me by your Excellency on the 14th instant. It could not, of course, include any notice of the subsequent action of the allied Powers in the matter of supporting at Belgrade the Porte's proposal for a prolonged armistice (until March), but the mention it made of the designs of Russia on the eastern frontier of Turkey, and in the direction of Batoum, had already foreshadowed the opposition of that country to a policy of peace.

Between 8 and 9 o'clock on the night of Saturday, the 14th instant, the Servians again opened a heavy fire of musketry, which they sustained for three-quarters of an hour from the right bank of the Morava in the direction of the trestle-bridge. The object of such useless demonstration is not very intelligible, unless it be to announce to Belgrade the occurrence of Turkish attacks successfully repelled; whereas, not only are the Turks inactive, but they do not even respond to the fire of the Servian infantry on such occasions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

Telegram (A).

Monday, 1 P.M.

Please let arrangement stand. Your French telegrams never reached me under two days; mine to you were doubtless as tardy. Please ask for repetition from camp of message; not understood.

Telegram (B).

Tuesday, 3 P.M.

Must I revert to old system of sending telegrams from Nish?

Movement yesterday mere reconnaissance; no results. Future plan operations turn Deligrad, after taking Krusewatz; referred to Constantinople.

Telegram (C).

Saturday, 1 P.M.

Nothing to report since Tuesday. Batteries exchange long shots occasionally. Proposed attack suspended pending negotiations Constantinople.

No. 855.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, October* 26, 1876.

ADMIRAL HOBART returned here a few days ago after a four months' cruize with the Turkish squadron, excessively pleased with its success.

He had been above sixty days under steam with six ships without a single breakdown or accident of any kind, and except himself there was not a single foreigner in the squadron either among officers or engineers. He speaks in high terms of both his officers and men, the latter having, he says, made extraordinary progress during the time they were out.

The Russian Embassy intimated to the Porte that it regarded Admiral Hobart's return here in the light of a menace.

His departure four months ago was looked upon in the same light,

No. 856.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 26, 1876.

THE Belgian Minister mentioned to me a few days ago that his Consul at Salonica reports that there is at that place a regular organization for the propagation of news of massacres and outrages impending or already perpetrated, with the object of keeping up a feeling of uneasiness and mutual distrust between the two classes of the population.

Mr. Blunt has frequently spoken of the reports in question being got up by intriguers, but has mentioned no one in particular, and at times when my colleagues here have been convinced that the state of Salonica was most alarming, he has always stated that there was no ground for apprehension.

I received a telegram from him yesterday to this effect.

The massacre of a number of Christians at Prisrend was reported ten days ago with such assurance as to be accepted as a fact at most of the Embassies, and probably telegraphed as such to many of their Governments, but it also proved to be an invention.

I have myself several times been misled by the credulity of some of our own Consular Agents, into making representations to the Porte about occurrences that never took place, or danger which did not exist, and some little soreness is felt at my having obtained orders for the Provincial Authorities in places where everything was quiet.

It is certain, however, that the lawlessness in many districts is very great, and that the means at the disposal of the authorities are inadequate to insure the maintenance of order, although, according to all the reports I have received, they appear to be doing their utmost, under stringent injunctions laid on them by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 857.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 4.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October* 13, 1876.

ON the 11th instant, a private telegram from Vienna informed this Government that the Porte had met the proposal of an armistice by an offer of one for six weeks.

I received, subsequently, a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, informing me that the Grand Council had decided on armistice till the end of March next.

My private conversations with some members of the Government, and also with a few of my colleagues, have convinced me that it would be quite useless to press its acceptance for so long a term on the Servian Government, unless the Court of Russia can be induced in the meantime to recommend it here.

My Russian colleague, M. Kartzoff, tells me that he has no instructions as yet on the subject, and it would not be advisable to expose this proposal to certain failure by moving in the matter without his support.

When the Prince of Servia applied for the good offices of the six Powers for the restoration of peace in August last, His Highness was induced to do so in the hope that a definite proposal putting an end to the war was about to follow on behalf of the Porte, with the concurrence of all the Powers.

The informal cessation of hostilities came to a sudden termination principally on account of that indefinite mode of arrangement not pleasing General Tchernaieff, and not having the approval of the Russian authorities.

Numerous objections are being put forward to an armistice for the whole of next winter, and, as far as I can judge of the present temper of the persons now in power here, I am not disposed to expect that this Government is likely to accept the present proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 858.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October 14, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Governments of France and of Austria-Hungary have sent instructions to their diplomatic Agents to support any representations I or M. de Kartzoff may make about the armistice.

The latter gentleman assures me that he does not expect his instructions from Livadia till Monday next the 16th instant.

Those of Count Joannini and M. de Bray are, I believe, of such a nature that they will give their support to an armistice for six months as soon as they ascertain that the Russian Court has decided to give its adhesion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 859.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October 19, 1876.*

THERE has been some heavy fighting about Deligrad and Djunis during the past week, and the Servians have lost several important positions, such as Crevet and others. Indeed, at one moment, it had been asserted that the important position of Djunis was in Turkish hands. The possession of this entrenchment and of that of St. Nestor, if held by an enemy, would no doubt leave Deligrad itself exposed to be turned, and would enable the Turkish army to advance on Kroushevatz and next on Kragoujevatz.

The latter town is situated in the centre of Servia, it contains the only arsenal and factory of munitions of war existing here, and on that account its loss would be a heavy blow to this country.

As the season is getting very late, and the Turkish forces have failed in pushing their recent advantages so as to occupy the principal position called Djunis, it appears unlikely that they can draw any practical result from the last heavy engagements in which it is said that they were victorious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 860.

Consul-General Whitc to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October 19, 1876.*

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship on the 16th instant, by telegraph, that in consequence of the instructions received by M. Kartzoff from his Court at Livadia, I found it impossible to carry out your Lordship's wishes by trying to induce the Prince of Servia to accept the armistice of five months, as proposed by the Porte.

All those of my colleagues who were authorized to support me agree in thinking that it would be perfectly useless to do so now that the views of the Emperor of Russia on the subject have been made known to Prince Milan in so unmistakable a manner.

I shall therefore abstain from taking any further steps in this matter of the armistice till I receive fresh instructions from your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 861.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October 27, 1876.*

IT is now four months since Servia commenced this war, and the leading people here take credit for having so far successfully resisted the Ottoman invasion.

They say that the Russian Court and people having openly recognized their co-operation on behalf of the cause of Eastern Slavs as against the Porte, they have acquired in consideration of their great sacrifices a right to the support of Russia in case of defeat.

In the meantime, no patriotic Servian can deny that his country is well-nigh ruined and exhausted; all its resources wasted and spent, its fields unsown, many villages devastated, and numerous soldiers, *i.e.*, peasants, killed or wounded.

Since the refusal of the armistice, all hopes are centred on the active support of Russia, and disappointment is being felt that no news have arrived yet of a Russian corps d'armée having crossed the Pruth.

Surely the Russian Emperor must know, so say the Servians, how sorely pressed we are; we hardly expected ourselves to be able to withstand during four long months the brunt of the Turkish attacks, but now that we have done our duty as the vanguard of Eastern Christendom, it is high time that we should be relieved from that dangerous post.

The numerous Russian agents recommend them to be patient for a little while longer, and it is said that a Russian corps under General Semeka will shortly cross the Pruth, and traverse Roumania by railway to Turnu-Severin, and then cross into Servia at Kladova for the purpose of giving support to General Tchernaieff's army in the Morava valley. If some such assistance does not come promptly, the situation of this country may become one of immense peril.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 862.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(Extract.) *Scutari, October 23, 1876.*

THE day before yesterday I had the honour to report to your Lordship that news had reached this through Montenegro that the fortress of Medun had capitulated, although the authorities here persisted, for some time, in denying that it had done so, or even that Derwish Pasha had withdrawn his head-quarters from the Montenegrin territory near Spuz, and had returned to Podgoritza.

I have not yet been able to ascertain whether this retrograde movement of the Turkish Commander-in-chief, for I now learn that he has brought with him the bulk of his troops, has been caused by the surrender of Medun and by an impression that Podgoritza can now be seriously threatened from the side of the Koutchi, or whether an encounter of some importance, and apparently not favourable for the Turks, that occurred on the 19th instant near Shistani, on the western side of the lake, has made Derwish Pasha doubtful of the prudence of carrying the war into the enemy's territory near Spuz, whilst the Montenegrins are operating successfully on both his flanks, and almost on his rear.

The fall of Medun has, however, shown that the Turkish General ought not to have contempleted offensive operations on Montenegrin territory with any great confidence, as he had been obliged, notwithstanding his force of upwards of 30,000 regular troops and park of artillery of fifty guns, to turn his back on the fortress which was invested by, at the most, five thousand Montenegrins and Koutchis; and, admitting that his men and artillery would prove more efficient against fourteen thousand Montenegrins in the plain of Bielopavlicka, he could not hope, even after marching across its ten miles successfully, to be in a better condition for forcing the defiles and mountain ranges recommencing at Orialuka.

The serious failures of Achmed Hamdi and Mahmoud Pashas, and also of Derwish Pasha, to afford succour to Medun, situated in Turkish territory and at only two hours' march from Podgoritza, and the numerous other ineffectual efforts of the Turkish troops to gain a footing at different points of the southern Montenegrin frontier, have thrown the inhabitants of this Province, both Mahommedan and Christian, into a state of uncertainty

as to the course they ought to follow for their own welfare which is rapidly tending towards becoming a danger for the Imperial Government. The urgent demands of Derwish Pasha on the Governor-General of Scutari for the despatch to his army as irregular troops, of all the inhabitants capable of bearing arms, has obliged Mustafa Pasha to have recourse to means of pressure which threaten to drive the perplexed townspeople as well as mountaineers into open rebellion, and this at a moment when the slightest open disaffection in this direction would render the existence of a Turkish army at Podgoritza most precarious.

So well aware have the Montenegrins been of the advantage of an unsettled state of things in Albania that they have not ceased since the commencement of the war attempting to create a diversion in their favour by endeavouring to induce the semi-independent Mirdites to put themselves in active opposition to the Turkish authorities. Montenegrin emissaries have distributed considerable sums, derived from a source hardly kept secret, among the Chiefs, and the whole power of the Roman Catholic clergy has only been able to counteract these influences to the extent of making the Mirdites maintain an expectant inaction.

Under all these circumstances, I cannot help believing that, if sentimental motives could be set aside, it would be most politic for the Turkish Government to endeavour to come to terms with Montenegro as speedily as possible, and in a manner so as to remove, to all practical extent, existing causes for periodical collisions.

The strength of Montenegro on this side, has been the fact that its frontier has a zone of Turkish territory almost entirely inhabited by Slavs of the Orthodox Church, or, more properly speaking, Montenegrins under Turkish jurisdiction; so that when the Turks are fighting ostensibly on their own ground, they are really keeping a footing amidst a hostile population. But, beyond this zone of Slavs, come the Albanians, of a different race and religion,—either Mohammedan or Roman Catholic,—and opposed by tradition to the Montenegrins. By ceding all the Slav districts to Montenegro, the Turks would at once deprive it of the fulcrum whereon its successful raids have always moved, and offer a frontier peopled by mountaineers as brave and warlike as the Montenegrins, and of a race apart from its neighbours, and, therefore, not open to the intrigues of ambitious nationalities.

This arrangement recommends itself all the more, as it is evident the populations on the north of Montenegro will emerge from their present state into a condition that will leave them more contented than heretofore; so that if Turkey persists in maintaining its hold on the Slavs on this side, they will be the only remaining leaven whereby the Montenegrins will be able to ferment at will the disorders which have ever been so difficult to overcome.

The cession of the districts of the Koutchi Drekolovich, the plain of the Zetiza, up to the River Sem, if not up to the north-western shores of the lakes or fiords of Kastrati and Hoti, and the waters of the Lake of Scutari across to Shistani, would necessarily comprise the towns of Spuz and Podgoritza, as well as the existing Turkish forts and the Islands of Vranina, Lesendra, and Grinozur; but the Moslem populations of all these localities, I believe, do not exceed 8,000, and are mostly confined to the towns and forts. They would, of course, have to be provided for elsewhere, should they decline to stay; but I am not at all sure that many of them would not elect to remain under Montenegrin jurisdiction, as their occupations have hitherto been connected with the supply of the wants of Montenegro. The fact that the Ottoman Government has found itself unable to protect them, will be considered as sufficient excuse for their acceptance of Christian rule.

The line of the River Morava appears on the map, and even on the locality itself, as a natural boundary; but as it would bring the Montenegrin frontier within pistol-shot of the streets of Podgoritza, and as it would still leave a large Slav population on Turkish territory, that of the River Sem is preferable; whilst, as an extreme limit, the north-western shores of the lakes mentioned above would comprise almost every Slav thereabouts with Montenegrin leanings.

To the west of Montenegro the tribe of the Wassoevitch is, like the Koutchi, divided into two by the present demarcation of the frontier, and it would be desirable that it should be united.

I have abstained from expressing an opinion on the frontier approaching the sea coast, as the interests it involves are not merely local or Turkish.

I venture to submit herewith in explanation of my remarks a rough sketch of the zone of territory which I consider might be ceded with advantage to Montenegro.

Inclosure in No. 862.

Rough Sketch, showing certain suggested Modifications of the Montenegrin Southern Frontier.

No. 863.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October 23, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, notwithstanding the sensational rumours which have been and continue to be industriously circulated at Salonica, perfect tranquillity prevails in the place.

The Bairam festival has been celebrated by the Mahommedans in the most orderly manner, and contrary to the custom which prevails in this country of discharging fire-arms at the celebration of the Mahommedan and Christian festivals, the public rejoicings in this instance, which lasted three days, were unaccompanied by any such display.

It appears that the leading members of the Mahommedan community exerted their influence to prevent their co-religionists doing anything likely to offend the religious sentiments of the Christians, or to give rise to the least ill-feeling. In fact, they acted with the purpose of disproving the false rumours which are current here of a fanatical rising against the Christians, and which, I am sorry to report, produce an exaggerated alarm in the minds of some of my colleagues, especially the Russian and Greek. I also hear that the Bairam has been celebrated amidst perfect order and tranquillity in the other towns in Macedonia.

The inclosed is a translated extract of a paragraph which appeared in the "Ermis," a Greek newspaper of Salonica, issued the 20th instant, commending the conduct of the Mohammedan community, and expressing the hope that the Christians, on their part, will show the same forbearance during the celebration of their religious festivals, which I am rather inclined to doubt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 863.

Extract from the "Ermis" of October $\frac{8}{20}$, 1876.

NOTRE ville jouit d'une grande tranquillité et régularité, grâce aux mesures qui furent prises en temps par son Excellence notre Gouverneur-Général, et à l'activité du Colonel de la Gendarmerie qui a prohibé les tirs à feu. Sont aussi dignes d'éloges nos concitoyens Musulmans, qui ont non seulement aboli l'usage barbare de tirer à feu, mais ils se sont montrés supérieurs aux expectations du public.

Nous souhaitons à nos coreligionnaires les Chrétiens de suivre leur exemple pendant les fêtes de Paques.

(Translation.)

OUR town is in the enjoyment of great tranquillity and order, thanks to the measures which were taken in good time by his Excellency our Governor-General, and to the activity of the Colonel of Gendarmerie, who has forbidden the discharge of firearms. Our Mussulman fellow citizens are also worthy of praise, for they have not only given up the barbarous practice of discharging firearms, but have shown themselves superior to the expectations which had been formed.

We hope that our Christian co-religionists will follow their example during the Easter festival.

No. 864.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

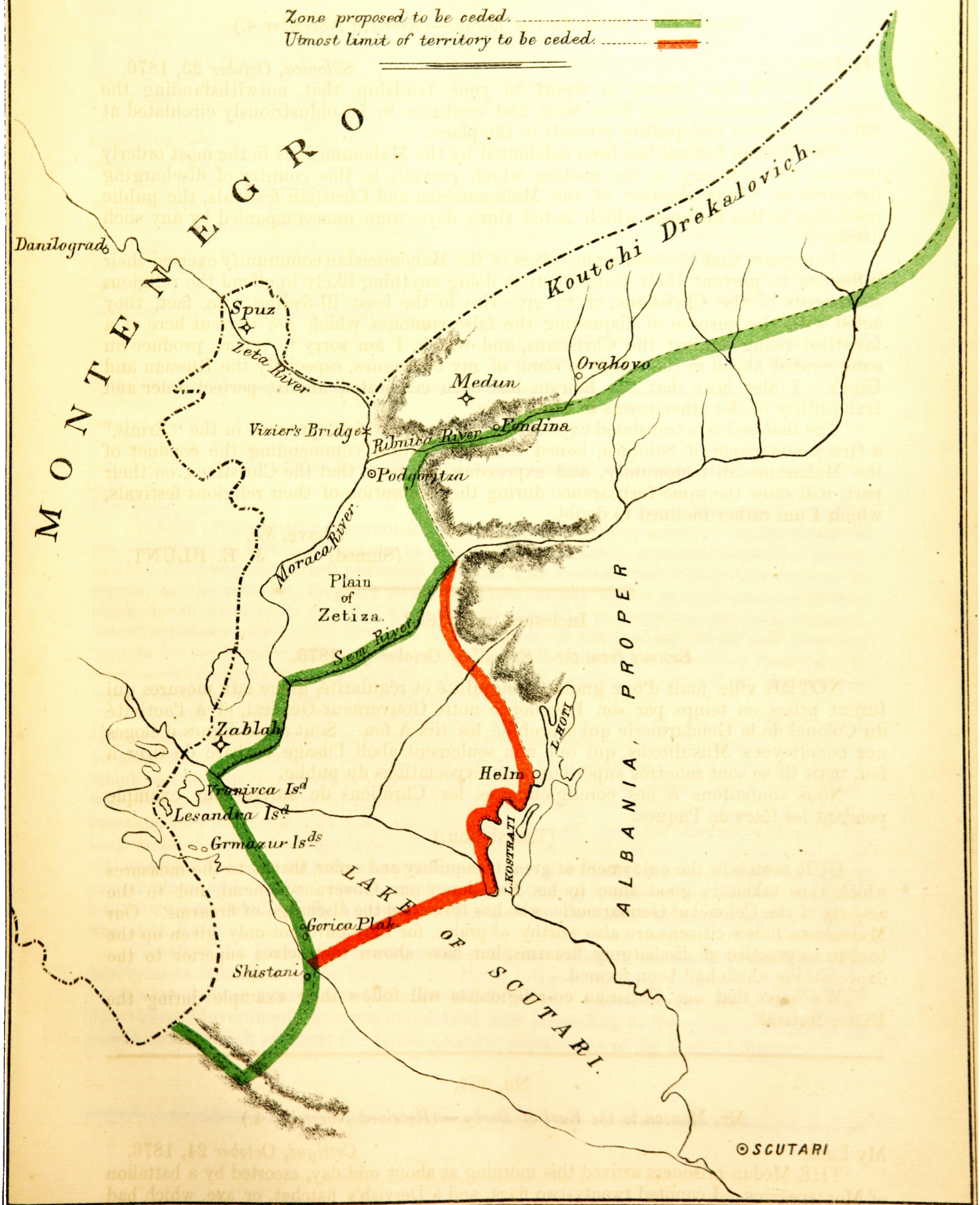
My Lord, *Cettigné, October 24, 1876.*

THE Medun prisoners arrived this morning at about mid-day, escorted by a battalion of Montenegrins. I counted twenty-two flags, and a Dervish's hatchet, or axe, which had

ROUGH SKETCH
OF A
MAP SHEWING CERTAIN SUGGESTED RECTIFICATIONS
OF THE
MONTENEGRIN SOUTHERN FRONTIER.

Scale of Miles
0 5 10 miles.

Zone proposed to be ceded.
Utmost limit of territory to be ceded.



(2,000. 1/71 1011)[F.O.167]

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been, for the most part, taken in previous combats, but had been reserved to heighten the effect of the triumphal entry of the victors of Medun.

The spectacle, as the troops in two detachments, with their prisoners forming the centre of the column, wound down the rugged path which leads from Riéka into the valley of Cettigné, was extremely picturesque. The detonations of the musketry, the pealing of the convent bells, the acclamations of the crowd, intensified the impression produced by the savage but martial appearance of the mountaineers, and the subdued but firm bearing of the prisoners. Among the latter were some thirteen officers, who were treated with every consideration, and who seemed to be on excellent terms with their captors.

The long line of prisoners was marched up to the convent gates, and the officers of the escort, having saluted the Prince, passed with His Highness into the chapel, where a *Te Deum* was chaunted, and the Turkish flags solemnly deposited in sacred keeping.

During the ceremony the prisoners reposed themselves on the turf beneath the convent walls, where huge cauldrons of soup were boiling for their refection. After the meal they were marched into the prison, where, however, there is so little accommodation that their detention can only be temporary.

The Prince entertained at supper in the evening the Turkish officers, and a number of chiefs and notables.

There seems to be the best feeling between the Turkish and Montenegrin officers, and the Prince is, as usual, full of consideration for those whom the fortune of war has thrown into his hands, setting an example of chivalrous courtesy which those about him seem perfectly ready to follow, and which could not be exceeded by any nation with higher pretensions to culture and refinement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 865.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(Extract.) *Rome, November* 1, 1876.

WITH reference to a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople of the 30th October, I have the honour to observe that it is not to a general measure of reform in itself including the Greek provinces to which I understand the Italian Government to object; on the contrary, they are all for the Porte issuing such a general measure if they think it expedient to do so. But what they do object to is accepting any such measure, issued spontaneously by the Porte, as a satisfaction of the demand which has been put forward by the Powers for the adoption of the special measures required for Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Bulgaria under a guarantee which should enable the Powers to see that the arrangements promised were faithfully carried out.

The Italian Government have no reliance upon the spontaneous action of the Turkish Government, and consider that in order to insure the fulfilment of any promises which may be made by the Sultan's Government, it is necessary that the Powers should have the right, which can only be conveyed to them by an engagement being entered into by the Porte with them, of themselves superintending the realization of such promises. A general measure, therefore, without a guarantee, they would look upon as illusory, and with one they would consider that the responsibility of the Powers would go beyond the sphere of action which had been hitherto contemplated, and might therefore be productive of future complications and danger. Such an arrangement would give each of the Powers a right of interference on behalf of the Christians in any part of the Ottoman dominions, in Asia as well as in Europe.

Therefore the Italian Government wishes for the measures restricted to the insurgent provinces as demanded by the Powers; the Porte being at the same time free, if they think fit, to extend those measures to the other provinces by the spontaneous will of the Sultan. The Italian Government does not understand how proceeding in this manner would be an incitement to revolt amongst the Greek or other populations of the Turkish Empire.

No. 866.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 4.)

My Lord, *Paris, November* 3, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes told me this morning that he was informed that on the acceptance by the Porte of the Russian ultimatum respecting the armistice, General Ignatiew had urged his colleagues at Constantinople to enter at once upon the discussion of the further arrangements to be made for the settlement of the Eastern question; in short, that the General was pressing them to begin the Conference immediately.

The Duke said that he was not prepared to act in so precipitate a manner, and that there appeared to him to be several preliminary points, upon which it would be advisable that the Powers should come to an understanding.

He was, he went on to say, particularly desirous of acting in concert with Her Majesty's Government; and he begged me to ask your Lordship to communicate to him as soon as possible your views on the following points :—

1. Where should the Conference meet?
2. When should it meet?
3. Of what Powers should it be composed?
4. What should be the class and number of Plenipotentiaries? For instance, if the Conference were held at Constantinople, should each Government appoint a special Plenipotentiary in addition to its resident Ambassador?
5. What should be the basis of the Conference?
6. What instructions should be given to the Plenipotentiaries?

I did not elicit from the Duc Decazes much information as to his own views on these several points.

He seemed to think that, as a general rule, the appointment of two Plenipotentiaries for a single Power was inconvenient. It was, he conceived, necessary that one of the two should be absolutely the chief; and he observed that in fact the first Plenipotentiary would find his colleague an embarrassment rather than a help, unless he had the direct authority over him which a Minister for Foreign Affairs would possess over a diplomatic subordinate who might be formally associated with him. On this point, however, the Duke professed himself quite ready to do whatever might be agreeable to Her Majesty's Government.

With regard to the third point; that is to say, the question as to what Powers should be represented in the Conference, the Duc Decazes seemed to think that the course which would in all probability be followed, would be to hold preliminary meetings of Representatives of the six Guaranteeing Powers, and subsequently a formal Conference, to which a Turkish Plenipotentiary should be admitted.

With respect to the time at which the Conference should be held, the Duke appeared to be of opinion that no unnecessary delay should take place, but that the other Powers should not be hurried by Russia into acting without having agreed upon proper preliminary arrangements.

The Duke told me that partly in order to show that he was not prepared to act without consideration, he had yesterday sent to the Comte de Bourgoing, the French Ambassador at Constantinople, orders to come immediately to Paris to receive instructions in person.

The Duke added, however, that if he should receive by to-morrow morning intelligence as to the views of Her Majesty's Government which should make it appear that the departure of the French Ambassador might produce inconvenience, he should still be in time to cancel the order of yesterday and direct M. de Bourgoing to stay at Constantinople.

The Duke concluded by begging me to lose no time in conveying to your Lordship his earnest desire to be made acquainted as soon as possible with the opinions of Her Majesty's Government on the several points he had specified. I sent accordingly a telegram to your Lordship directly I got home.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 867.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 3, 1876, 7·20 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Government being satisfied with the answer of the Porte to the ultimatum, General Ignatiew invited his colleagues to concert for the immediate departure of the Delegates to arrange the details of the armistice.

The Delegates for Montenegro will meet at Ragusa, and Colonel Lennox should proceed there as soon as possible.

I have informed Sir A. Buchanan.

No. 868.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 3, 1876, 11 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW said to-day to his colleagues that as the armistice was established, he proposed that we should meet to discuss the terms of the peace to which it was intended to lead.

I said that I could not enter into such a discussion without precise instructions from your Lordship.

He answered that as the early conclusion of peace was what we all desired, we should endeavour to give a form to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that administrative autonomy should be secured to the insurgent provinces.

I said that your Lordship had explained that the meaning of Her Majesty's Government was that the populations should have a certain control over the administration, but that I had no further information as to their views.

He then observed that this was only the explanation given to the expression by Her Majesty's Government; upon which I reminded him that the explanation had been communicated to all the other Governments, and assented to by them.

An attempt to lay down the manner in which the populations are to exercise the control demanded for them would appear to me open to great objection, and I imagine that all that can properly be done is to examine the measures proposed by the Porte, and to see that they give the security required.

The Russians object to any general measure for the reform of the administration of the whole country, but I believe that the Porte could not safely give exceptional privileges only to the provinces which have revolted, and that it is a question for the decision of the Cabinets rather than of their Representatives here.

No. 869.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 4, 1876.*

I HAVE informed Sir H. Elliot that Mr. Monson reports that Prince Nicholas states that fortress of Spuz continues to fire upon Montenegrin positions, and that the Russian Agent declares that he has been instructed to report at once to General Ignatiew any infraction of armistice by the Turks; also that orders for suspension of hostilities were sent yesterday morning by the Prince to his Chiefs.

No. 870.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4, 12 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November 4, 1876.*

MY Russian colleague told me last night that in compliance with his instructions he had invited the Italian Government to send immediate orders to their Minister at Constantinople to take part in negotiations on the English bases to which they had agreed. He says that Russia understands local autonomy in the same sense as Her Majesty's

Government, and that he has heard nothing of any other conditions than those put forward by England.

Italian Military Attaché at Vienna has been ordered to Widdin to join in the delimitation of the armistice.

No. 871.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 4, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 4, 1876, 12·47 P.M.

I VENTURE to observe, with reference to Lord A. Loftus' report of his audience of the Emperor of Russia, that, though His Imperial Majesty is doubtless perfectly sincere in the declaration of his intentions with respect to Constantinople, the real question at issue is how far the changes Russia may now endeavour to impose upon the Porte may tend to facilitate her future acquisition of the Bosphorus.

No. 872.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 4, 1876.

I HAVE instructed Colonel Lennox to go to Ragusa and Major Gonne to Belgrade. Your Excellency should inform them as soon as possible of the terms of the armistice, and of the precise duties required of them as military delegates.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 873.

Circular addressed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, Rome, and Constantinople.

My Lord,

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 4, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government believe, from the communications which they have received from the Powers, that there is a general feeling that the only solution of the questions arising out of recent events in Turkey is to be found in a Conference, but that there is some hesitation felt in formally proposing it.

Under these circumstances, and with the view of bringing about a satisfactory settlement of those questions, Her Majesty's Government have determined to renew the suggestion made by them on the 5th ultimo, and to take the initiative in proposing that a Conference should be held forthwith at Constantinople, in which all the Guaranteeing Powers and the Porte should take part, and each Government should be at liberty to appoint two Plenipotentiaries to represent it.

Her Majesty's Government further submit as the basis for the deliberations of the Conference:—

1. The independence, and the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

2. A declaration that the Powers do not intend to seek for, and will not seek for, any territorial advantages, any exclusive influence, or any concession with regard to the commerce of their subjects, which those of every other nation may not equally obtain.

This declaration was made on September 17th, 1840, in the Protocol for the pacification of the Levant, and again, August 3rd, 1860, in regard to the pacification of Syria.

3. The bases of pacification proposed to the Porte on the 21st of September, viz.:—

(*a.*) The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

(*b.*) That the Porte should simultaneously undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy, by which is to be understood a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority.

There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against mal-administration in

Bulgaria. The reforms already agreed to by the Porte in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th of February last, to be included in the administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and so far as they may be applicable for Bulgaria.

Her Majesty's Government desire that your Excellency should propose to the Government to which you are accredited a Conference on these bases, and you may state that if this proposal meets with general acceptance, Her Majesty's Government will lose no time in appointing a Special Ambassador to proceed to Constantinople to take part in the Conference.

If the other Powers thought it advisable, Her Majesty's Government would not object to their Plenipotentiaries joining in preliminary discussions with the Plenipotentiaries of the other five Guaranteeing Powers before the opening of the Conference. These discussions to be on the same bases as those proposed for the Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 874.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 4, 1876.

IN my preceding despatch of this day's date,* I have informed you of the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for the assembling of a Conference, and I have now to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have considered that it would be useful that a Special Ambassador should be sent to the Conference, and that it is their wish that you should act with him.

Her Majesty's Government are anxious that you should understand that there is nothing in this appointment which in any way affects their confidence in you as Her Majesty's Representative; and I should add that the Special Ambassador will be merely appointed *ad hoc* to attend the Conference with you, and will not interfere in any respect with the ordinary business of your Embassy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 875.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 4, 1876.

I INFORMED your Excellency, by telegraph, on the 2nd instant, that Colonel Lennox, who has been appointed Military Attaché at Constantinople, would shortly arrive at Vienna, having been selected to act as British Delegate for the arrangement of the details of the armistice in Montenegro. I stated, at the same time, that Major Gonne, who had been selected to fill the corresponding post in Servia, should be ready to start as soon as he should receive instructions.

I have to-day telegraphed to you to order both officers to proceed at once, Colonel Lennox to Ragusa and Major Gonne to Belgrade, so as to be ready to enter on their task without delay.

Sir Henry Elliot has been instructed to communicate to them the terms of the armistice, and to explain to them the precise nature of the duties which they will be expected to perform.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 873.

No. 876.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 5*, 1876, 7·30 P.M.

I SENT following to Sir A. Buchanan :—

"The Military Delegates who go from here by the Danube to Widdin will arrive at Saitchar on Saturday, and it would be desirable for Major Gonne to meet them at one of those places.

"I think it better that Sir A. Kemball should remain at Alexinatz till they arrive there, as his presence will be a check upon any violation of the armistice."

No. 877.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 5*, 1876.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of the 3rd instant, reporting that in a conversation with Prince Gortchakow his Highness stated to you that if in the Conference to be held Russia should be in a minority on the question of autonomy, General Ignatiew would place on record the proposals of Russia and then withdraw.

I have mentioned this language to Count Schouvaloff, and I expressed at the same a hope that it does not represent the serious intention of the Russian Government.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that if each Government is to go into the Conference with a settled plan, which it declines to modify, no agreement can possibly be come to, and the Conference is useless.

I have to request that you will take an opportunity of speaking to Prince Gortchakow in this sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 878.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, at night.)

Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 5*, 1876, 2·45 P.M.

HAVING been requested by Count Andrassy to call on him this morning, I took with me your Lordship's telegram of yesterday relative to the composition of a Conference to be held at Constantinople, and the basis for its deliberations.

He had already received a telegram on the subject from Count Beust, and said that he did not feel satisfied with the explanation it contained as to the question of the autonomy of the Turkish Provinces, and before he agreed to take part in the Conference he wished to know whether Her Majesty's Government are prepared to maintain the understanding formerly come to between the two Governments as to the signification of the term "administrative autonomy," and that they will resist any attempt to give it a wider interpretation.

He said that the question was a vital one, as any system which would lead to the "disintegration" of the Turkish Empire would be more fatal to it than the entire loss of a portion of its territory. He said that the question being too important for him to form an opinion upon it without mature deliberation, he begged that I would communicate to him in writing the proposal which I had been instructed to make to him, and I promised to do so in the course of the day.

He also asked whether it was essential that the second Plenipotentiaries should have the rank of Ambassador, and he further stated that he considered the Plenipotentiaries should not act under general instructions alone, but submit the various points which might be discussed to their respective Governments for their final orders respecting them. In his own case, as responsible to Parliament, he said that he could not give any one authority to act for him by merely general instructions.

[No. 879.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 5*, 1876, 3·15 P.M.

DURING my interview with Count Andrassy to-day, he said there is another question at issue of more immediate importance than the Conference, namely, the principle on which the delimitation for the armistice is to be carried out.

The natural course would be for the different forces to hold the ground they occupy, but he fears a proposal is about to be brought forward for the withdrawal from Servia of the Turkish troops, as the peace is to be negotiated on the basis of the *status quo ante*. In Montenegro also he understands that the Prince will make difficulties as to the revictualling of the fortresses, besides if the Turkish troops are to evacuate Montenegrin territory, the Montenegrins should evacuate that of Turkey.

These are all questions, he said, that cannot be decided by military delegates, and which ought to be arranged diplomatically before the Delegates enter on their duties.

No. 880.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 5*, 1876, 9·30 P.M.

I HAVE communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Monson's telegram about the fortress of Sputz continuing to fire upon the Montenegrin positions, and his Excellency promised that the orders to Dervish Pasha to suspend all hostilities should be repeated immediately. The first orders were sent from here on Wednesday afternoon, and it is not certain when they may have reached Sputz.

No. 881.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, October 27*, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch dated the 26th instant which I have just addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, suggested by seeing that the Porte proposes, in the re-organization of its Administration, still to continue the system of what it calls the "local control" of the mixed Medjlisses or Councils, which at present exist in the provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 881.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bosna Seraï, October 26*, 1876.

IN the "Levant Herald" of the 4th October, under the heading of "The Decision of Monday's Council," I find that the Porte proposes, as applicable to Bosnia and the Herzegovina and Bulgaria, the new system of reorganization offered for the whole of the Turkish Empire, "comprising, as it does, a popular elective Legislative Assembly, a Senate, and the local control exercised by the mixed Medjlisses or local Councils of vilayets (departments) and sandjaks (districts) which at present exist in the provinces."

Now, it is precisely these Medjlisses which, in the provinces, are the obstacles to all reform; and, as far as lies in my power, I anxiously desire to impress on your Excellency the utter futility of hoping any good from any proposal in which these Councils are concerned. The fallacy of the idea that these countries can be benefited by a control exercised by these mixed Medjlisses is evident to any one who knows of what they are composed, viz., the most influential, but fanatic, ignorant and corrupt of the Mussulman population, and of the most insignificant and abject of the Christian. If the Christians were even in the proportion of three to one, the Mahommedan minority would still have its own way. The more enlightened of the Christians, the so-called merchants, with hardly

the capital, and not the intelligence and education of a small shop-keeper in an English village, have not the courage to sit in a Council in which they know they would have no influence, and dread being molested and injured in their affairs if they spoke a word in opposition to their Moslem colleagues, and, even if they did accept this position, they would, as they have always done, cringe to them, and eagerly receive the small share of the peculation and favour which might be accorded in reward for their subservience.

In 1854 Lord Stratford de Redcliffe instructed me, while Acting Consul at Monastir, to endeavour to persuade some of the more wealthy and influential Christian merchants and proprietors of the place to enter the Medjliss, and make a bold stand against injustice and oppression. All my efforts were useless to induce any man of substance to accept the position. They all urged their unwillingness to expose themselves to the ill-will of the Moslems. Yet these Christians were very much in advance of those of Bosnia in education, influence and wealth. Thus, it is folly to expect that the Christian element, however strong it may be numerically, would be of the smallest advantage as against the Mussulman proportion, which, I see, is always to represent a majority. I have, in the despatch alluded to, shown what is the nature of the Mussulman element in all the Medjlisses, their aims and ideas, and will only repeat that these very persons are they who have refused to admit either the possibility or the necessity of any of the reforms proposed for the Christians. What then can be expected from the control of the administration by these Councils? Nothing more or less than what experience has hitherto shown it to be —no control at all, but a mere substitution of the will of the Medjlisses instead of any proper administration.

Governors-General, with their very limited power, and their own personal interests, are unable, even were they willing, to check the arbitrary conduct and injustice of these Councils. Imperial edicts are regarded simply as waste paper, only issued to throw dust in the eyes of Europe. They command neither respect nor attention, but are simply read and forgotten; and, whatever may be the sincerity of the Porte to have reforms carried out, I do not hesitate to declare that it will never realize them, until not only the Medjlisses have no control over them, but until they are entirely swept away.

There is no hope for reform or progress in the idea of increased local self-government, because neither native Christians nor Turks have the least aptitude or capacity for it. The idea of the Mussulman is simply complete domination over the Christian; that of the Christian seems to be, that it is useless to attempt to avoid this domination; and, consequently, it is usually seen that every Christian admitted to the smallest share of power becomes as oppressive, or even more so, than the Turk, and eagerly uses his position in the same way—to make the most he can out of the temporary chance afforded to him.

I need scarcely remind your Excellency that my long residence here has given me exceptional opportunities for understanding the condition and circumstances of the people of Bosnia, and of arriving at a correct idea of what is most calculated to promote their interests, and what is most practicable in execution; and I have come to the conclusion that there is no means of hoping for success except real power be conceded to the Governor, and the personal interest of the authorities of all classes will then be to govern well, instead of, as it is now, not to govern at all, but simply to try to enrich themselves by injustice to and oppression of others, whether Christian or Mussulman.

It is not only in Bosnia, but at Monastir, Erzeroom, Kars, Trebizond, Diarbekir, Aleppo, Damascus, and at all the places I have visited in Turkey, that I have noted these local Councils as the bane of the administration, and the insurmountable obstacle to progress and reform. And yet the Porte proposes to confide the control of its new organization to the local Medjlisses!

My project would, necessarily, advantageously affect the condition of the Christians, but the proposal of the Porte is simply the old state of affairs, with the addition of promises which cannot be performed under that system.

Now, from all the Turkish Ministers and Pashas to whom I have explained my ideas, I have received their unanimous individual assent to their practicability and utility; and yet, such is the force of self-interest, it would probably meet with opposition from them, as a body, at Constantinople, owing to a feeling of the little personal good it would do Ministers and others, in the loss of all the patronage and the profit arising from this source; but, I think, as this proposal is quite the reverse of degrading to the Ottoman Government, and would not offend the Mussulmans of Bosnia, all personal indifference to it, if pressed as a solution of this difficult question, might be easily overcome. The more intelligent Mussulmans and Christians, and also the foreign Consuls, to whom I have mentioned it here, have equally seen in it the only reasonable hope of reform.

I consider, however, that the chief difficulty in its being carried out would be the ignorance and prejudice of the European Powers, and also the desire of some of them, who might better understand the question, to prevent anything from being effected likely to promote the lasting well-being, tranquillity, and content of the Christian population, notwithstanding all pretensions of having only their interests at heart.

At all events, if the Turks are still to govern this ignorant and divided people,—totally incapable of self-government,—a paternal despotism seems the only possible government; and, provided that the self-interest of all who participate in the government be clearly to do well rather than the reverse, I think no better guarantee could be imagined for a large measure of reform and progress, increasing with time, and culminating in the content and prosperity of all classes.

It is my firm conviction that any promised extension of local self-government is a delusion, which, if accepted, will be the triumph of the enemies of Turkey; as any attempt to govern on the old system of Medjlisses, with whatever promises it may be accompanied, will result in lamentable failure, in renewed agitation and disorder, and eventually render the outcry against the Turks in Europe irresistible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 882.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 6.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, October* 28, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copies of two reports I addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the 18th and 25th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 882.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, October* 18, 1876.

THE Governor-General yesterday informed me that it had been reported to him, by a reliable correspondent, that a considerable number of the insurgent Bulgarians who had gone over to Servia were suddenly quitting the country, leaving their arms and uniforms behind them, for Roumania, with the intention of crossing over to this Vilayet and proceeding to their native towns and villages, to be ready for another rising, to which they are being urgently instigated from abroad.

His Excellency further informed me that he had applied to the Porte for authority to prevent these men from coming over, and that their number was considerable.

That foreign emissaries are again at work in Bulgaria I have but little doubt, from what I have heard for some weeks past.

M. Illisitchine, the Chancelier of this Russian Consulate-General, has been at Tirnova during the last fortnight on an alleged mission for the relief of the victims of the late disturbances.

I have also heard of one or two suspicious persons at Tirnova, whom I have recommended the Pasha to have watched, and his Excellency has telegraphed orders for this purpose.

The Pasha also informed me yesterday that five Bulgarian Christians from the neighbourhood of Gabrova had disguised themselves in Mussulman costume and gone into the country between Gabrova and Plevna for the purpose of highway robbery; that they had fallen in with two travellers, a Mussulman, Hajji Çhelik, who had 300 liras on him, and a certain Bulgarian Christian, named Stoyan, with 50 liras; that the Hajji was killed by these men, but Stoyan escaped, and that they carried off the whole of the money.

The Pasha added that by his orders every effort was being made to capture these men.

I was a few days ago informed by my Russian colleague that he had heard that in different parts of the country Mussulmans were again arming themselves, whilst the Christians were being prevented from carrying any, even whilst travelling.

I consequently yesterday asked the Pasha if this was true. His Excellency most emphatically declared that it was not. I, however, told him that, a few days ago, I myself saw in Rustchuk two Circassians with arms on them, and I strongly recommended him to prevent this. His Excellency said that perhaps these were Circassians returning to their homes from the army; but he nevertheless called the Chief of Police, and in my presence gave him the most peremptory order to prevent anyone from carrying arms in the towns, and that he held him strictly responsible for the execution of this order. He further ordered the immediate despatch of a strong circular to all the authorities in the Vilayet, with identical orders, and holding them all responsible for their strict execution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 882.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, October 25*, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on Wednesday last I was told that, from the way in which the Mussulmans were openly talking in the cafés, an attack on the Christians was expected on the day after the Bairam, that is, on Sunday last.

Although I thought that this was one of the usual panics, still I next day got a person to see some of the leading Mussulmans here, so as to ascertain if there was any truth in the report made to me.

It appears that the Mussulmans have talked—and are still talking—but in the following sense:—

That having heard of an intention on the part of Russia to enter Turkey, they (the Mussulmans) are determined that if a single Russian regiment makes its appearance on the other side of the Danube alone, to massacre every Christian in the interior, if they cannot do the same on the banks of the Danube.

That this will take place, if the Russians make their appearance, no one who knows the country for a moment doubts, the more so as the Mussulmans are convinced that the Russians will only come here to drive them out of Europe, and they say, "in that case what have we to live for?" To offer the excuse of a temporary occupation will not be of the slightest avail.

I also hear that they are very well aware of the "speeches and writings" in England, advocating their expulsion from Europe, and these have only inflamed them the more.

Under these circumstances the knowledge that there are so few troops in this Vilayet is by no means reassuring to the Christians here, many of whom, I hear, are already prepared to leave at a moment's notice.

I am constantly seeing the Governor-General, and have induced him to take quietly every precaution that is necessary and possible without giving cause for a panic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 883.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)

My Lord, *Rome, November 3*, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive this morning your Lordship's despatch of the 27th of October, relative to a telegram from Signor Melegari to the Italian Ambassador in London, giving the substance of a conversation between Signor Melegari and me on the question of the exclusion of a Turkish Representative from a Conference.

I was certainly under the impression that I had correctly represented Signor Melegari's views on this subject when I reported in my despatch of the 25th ultimo that his Excellency would consider that the exclusion of a Turkish Representative from any Conference, which might be assembled to discuss the affairs of the provinces and the conditions of peace with the Principalities, would be an act of injustice, and contrary to the spirit of the Treaty of Paris; but I now find, by a conversation I have just had with his Excellency, that I was mistaken in attaching so general a sense to Signor Melegari's

objection to the exclusion of a Turkish Representative, and that his Excellency "although of opinion that it would be desirable that a Representative of Turkey should not be excluded from a Conference assembled to discuss the interests of that country, considers, nevertheless, that it is only in the event of a Conference being convoked in virtue of Article VIII of the Treaty of Paris that it would not be possible to exclude a Representative of Turkey."

The words between inverted commas I wrote down at his Excellency's table, and having read them over to him, he said they were correct.

In speaking of the negotiations for peace, his Excellency gave me to understand that he would be ready to urge both Russia and the Porte to act in a spirit of conciliation, and he attached great importance to the influence which Her Majesty's Government might exercise over both Powers in this sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 884.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6, 1·12 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November 5, 1876, 11 P.M.*

EMPEROR expressed gratification at the appreciation of his assurances by Her Majesty's Government.

I communicated to the Emperor and Prince Gortchakow your Lordship's proposal as regards Conference. Emperor expressed to me wish that in Article No. 1 word "territorial" should be omitted. This would enable Porte to make any territorial concession to Montenegro which it might hereafter deem desirable.*

Emperor regretted departure from Constantinople of French Ambassador; his absence causing delay of fifteen days in meeting of Conference.

I shall see Prince Gortchakow to-morrow, and telegraph his Highness's answer to your Lordship's proposals.

No. 885.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November 6, 1876, 5·30 P.M.*

THE Italian Government accepts in principle the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference at Constantinople.

No. 886.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 6, 1876.*

I HAVE communicated the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference to the German Government, as instructed by your Lordship's telegram of the 4th instant.

German Minister for Foreign Affairs has submitted it to the Emperor and to the Chancellor. His Excellency will instruct German Ambassador at Constantinople to attend preliminary discussions, and sees no objection to appointment of second Plenipotentiary if necessary.

No. 887.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 6, 1876.*

SIR A. BUCHANAN reports in his telegram of the 5th instant, which has been forwarded to your Excellency, that Count Andrassy has reason to fear that difficulties may

* See Lord A. Loftus' despatch of November 5, 1876, pp. 704–5.

be raised as to the principle on which the delimitation for the armistice is to be carried out.

I have to request that you will inform me by telegraph what are the precise terms of the armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 888.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 6, 1876.

I HAVE received a telegram to-day from your Excellency, in which you state that Prince Bismarck thinks that the Turkish forces should recross the frontier and evacuate the territory of Servia on the principle that, during the armistice, the *status quo ante bellum* should be maintained. You add that this is also the Russian view, and you report that Herr von Bülow is anxious to be informed, confidentially, whether I am of opinion that the delimitation of the armistice should admit of the maintenance by the Turks of the positions now occupied by them on Servian territory.

I have to direct your Excellency to state to Herr von Bülow, as the reply to this inquiry, that Her Majesty's Government consider that the Servians can have no claim to the *status quo ante bellum* till peace is concluded; and that they are of opinion that the respective armies ought, during the armistice, to retain their present positions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 889.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 6, 1876.

IT is reported in your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, that Count Andrassy had stated to you that, before he agreed to take part in the proposed Conference he wished to know whether Her Majesty's Government are prepared to maintain the understanding between the two Governments as to the signification of the term "administrative autonomy," and would resist any attempt to give it a wider interpretation.

I should wish you to point out to Count Andrassy, that the answer to the question of the maintenance by Her Majesty's Government of their interpretation of the term "local or administrative autonomy" is to be found in the bases submitted to him. The third basis which Her Majesty's Government propose, is "the terms of pacification proposed by Sir Henry Elliot to the Porte, in my instruction of September 21st," and that instruction clearly defined the meaning attached by Her Majesty's Government to the phrase. The bases for the deliberations of the Conference, as they comprise the bases of the terms of pacification, comprise also this definition.

Count Andrassy further stated to your Excellency that he considered that the Plenipotentiaries sent to the Conference should not act under general instructions alone, but should submit to their respective Governments the various points which might be discussed. You may inform Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government concur in this view; as it has never been their practice to give general instructions empowering Plenipotentiaries to agree to important matters without reference home, and they would not authorise the adoption of any final agreement without their being consulted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 890.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord, *Paris, November* 6, 1876.

YESTERDAY morning I communicated verbally to the Duc Decazes the proposals respecting a Conference at Constantinople, contained in your Lordship's telegram of the evening before.

Early this morning I sent the Duke a written memorandum of the contents of the telegram, and soon afterwards I went to see him.

He authorized me to tell your Lordship that, for his own part, he should be quite willing to adopt the arrangements proposed by Her Majesty's Government, but that he could not feel certain that they would be readily adopted by other Powers. He must, therefore, he said, beg me to entreat your Lordship in his name, to be willing to accept a compromise, if objections to your present proposals should be raised by other Governments.

He added that he was particularly anxious on the subject, because the proposed Conference appeared to afford the last hope of preserving peace, and it was therefore of the utmost importance that no preliminary differences of opinion should interfere with its being assembled.

I have already had the honour to transmit the substance of this despatch to your Lordship by telegraph.

I inclose a copy of the memorandum which I sent to the Duc Decazes this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 890.

Memorandum communicated to French Government.

A CONFERENCE to be held forthwith at Constantinople, in which all the Guaranteeing Powers and the Port shall take part, and in which each Government may have two Representatives.

The following bases for the deliberations of the Conference are suggested by Her Majesty's Government:—

(A.) The independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

(B.) A declaration that the Powers do not seek for territorial advantages, exclusive influence or commercial concessions, such as was made in the Protocols of the 17th September, 1840, and 3rd August, 1860.

(C.) The terms of pacification proposed to the Porte by the British Ambassador in September.

If the proposal now made be agreed to by the Powers, Her Majesty's Government will at once appoint a special Ambassador to proceed to Constantinople to take part in the Conferences.

If it should be desired by the other Powers, Her Majesty's Government would not object to their two Plenipotentiaries joining in preliminary discussions with Plenipotentiaries of the other five Powers before the opening of the Conference. These preliminary discussions to be on the same bases as are proposed for the Conference.

No. 891.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November* 6, 1876, 8 P.M.

I SAW Prince Gortchakow this morning. He agrees to your Lordship's proposals and bases for Conference, with the omission of the word "territorial" preceding "integrity of Ottoman Empire."

His Highness observed that he could not accept that term, as it would exclude possibility of an occupation, which he considers will be still necessary as a guarantee for the security of Christian population and for execution of reforms. This occupation should bear European character, as in the case of Syria, mentioned in the Protocol referred to by your Lordship in 1860, and it might be entrusted to Russia and Austria, acting in the name of Europe. Prince Gortchakow also stated that excesses were still being perpetrated in Bulgaria, and that if they continue, material force would be necessary to maintain order, but he distinctly stated that Russia would not take an inch of territory.

No. 892.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador communicated to me yesterday two telegrams which he had received from his Government.

The first telegram states that the Russian Government accept the English proposal for a Conference, but they presume that the presence of the second Plenipotentiary at the preliminary discussions is to be optional, and left to the discretion of each of the Powers.

In the second telegram it is said that Russia wishes for the assembling of a Conference, and looks upon it as the most likely means of ensuring, through an understanding amongst all the Powers, the conclusion of peace, and security for the welfare of the Christian population.

Prince Gortchakow, in his recent remarks to your Excellency, did not mean to dispute the right of free discussion amongst the Plenipotentiaries, or to place obstacles in the way of the meeting of a Conference.

His Highness only repeated the same language, which the Russian Government has not ceased to hold since the month of June last.

Russia seeks the prosperity of the inhabitants of Bosnia, the Herzegovine, and Bulgaria by means of institutions of local and administrative autonomy, which she would wish to see rendered real and efficacious.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 893.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 7, 1876, 11·45 A.M.*

IT is understood here that the delimitation of the armistice is to be carried out on the principle usually followed in such cases.

Instructions to the Delegates drawn up upon that principle were unanimously adopted by all the Representatives, including General Ignatiew, who warmly approved them.

The instructions state that the duty of the Commission is to lay down as quickly as possible, and with the most scrupulous precision by the position of the villages, the lie of the ground, &c., the line of demarcation between the armies.

The Commission will be guided in this duty by the fundamental principle of every armistice, according to which the belligerents must retain their respective positions as far as the nature of the ground admits.

A neutral zone of not less than 8 kilometres will be fixed between the advanced posts, from which officers and men of both armies will be rigorously excluded.

The Commission will proceed first to arrange the armistice for the armies of the Morava and the Timoc, as the chief seat of war, and afterwards proceed to the western frontier of Servia.

No. 894.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

THE Russians in Servia are said to commit great excesses, and to be guilty of much licentiousness.

I have to instruct you to report to me as to the truth of these statements; and, in the event of their being correct, to inform me of any cases which you can ascertain to be well authenticated.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 895.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

I HAVE received your telegram of the 5th instant, and I have to point to your Excellency that the expression "territorial integrity," to which it appears that the Russian Government make some objection, is taken from the Treaty of Paris.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that, from the nature of the relations existing between the Porte and Montenegro, this expression would not exclude any frontier arrangements with Montenegro which the Porte might be disposed to concede.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 896.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me to-day, and I mentioned to him the report which I had received by telegraph from your Excellency that Prince Gortchakow agreed to the bases for a Conference proposed by Her Majesty's Government with the omission of the word "territorial" preceding "integrity of the Ottoman Empire" in the first basis, on the ground that he could not accept that term as it determined the exclusion of the possibility of occupation which he considered still necessary.

His Excellency begged that I would suspend any action on this Report for twenty-four-hours. He said that he had himself received a similar message from Prince Gortchakoff, but that he had pointed out, in reply, what no doubt had been overlooked, that the words "territorial integrity" were a quotation from a Treaty; that "integrity," without the explanatory word "territorial," would, after all, be the same thing; and that, as Her Majesty's Government had already refused the idea of occupation, the renewal of the proposal as a preliminary in the basis for a Conference would certainly cause Her Majesty's Government to break off from the Conference altogether.

He requested me to understand that he had done this on his personal account, but he did not doubt that his representations would have due weight with his Government, and therefore trusted that Her Majesty's Government would wait at all events for the time he had mentioned, until he received the Prince's answer.

I said that I had listened to his Excellency with much satisfaction, and felt no difficulty in assenting to his request.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 897.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegrams of the 5th and 6th instant, from which I learn that, having received information from Major Gonne, subsequently confirmed from the Embassy at Constantinople to the effect that those of the military Delegates appointed to carry out the delimitation under the armistice, who were coming from Turkey, would be at Widdin at the end of this week, you had, in compliance with a suggestion made by Sir H. Elliot, directed Major Gonne to proceed to Widdin to meet his colleagues there, or at Saitchar.

I have to state to your Excellency that I approve these instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 898.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

COUNT BEUST informed to-day, that Count Andrassy had stated to him by telegraph, that he had no objection to the programme for the deliberations of the Conference which had been communicated to him as the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government, but had directed him to make the following observations to me in the strictest confidence.

By the conditions as to the territorial integrity of Turkey, any question as to the "amputation" of the Turkish Empire was excluded. But if the British Government, as had been repeatedly asserted by Count Beust in his telegrams, only looked upon their proposals relating to autonomy as the basis for discussion, then, Count Andrassy observed, it did not appear clear to him whether the same resistance as would be opposed to dismemberment would be made to a state of things acting as a process of slow poisoning or chemical disintegration. The Austro-Hungarian Government were determined, if Her Majesty's Government took up the same position with them, not to go further in regard of the question of autonomy than the original propositions of England; but if the Cabinet of St. James were inclined to go further, nothing would be left to Austria-Hungary but to look exclusively to her own special interests in the way best calculated to protect them.

As regards the suggestion of a second Plenipotentiary, Count Andrassy stated that he had no objection to offer, but that it was his wish that too much stress should not be laid on the high position of the Ambassadors. Under no circumstances would the Austro-Hungarian Government allow their Plenipotentiaries to do more in important questions than take them *ad referendum*, as it seemed to them hardly possible to reconcile the grant of absolute full powers with Parliamentary institutions.

I replied that the Austro-Hungarian Government might be assured that Her Majesty's Government adhered to their proposals respecting autonomy, and would not depart from them in a Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 899.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Stuart.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of despatches, as marked in the margin,* upon the subject of Circassian colonization in Thessaly and Epirus.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 900.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 8.)

My Lord, *Scutari, October 28, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to state that I have now ascertained that the estimate of the Mussulman population residing within the zone, which I think might be ceded with advantage to Montenegro, was far too high, and that I ought to have placed it at 3,000, and not 8,000. This reduction, of course, strengthens the argument in favour of the expropriation of these Mahommedans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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* Nos. 816 and 841.

No 901.

Sir A Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 8, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November* 8, 1876. *noon.*

THE answer of the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs is a full acceptance of the Conference on the bases proposed by Her Majesty's Government. His Excellency states that although, in his opinion, the work of the Conference as well as that of the preliminary discussions would have been facilitated by another place of meeting being chosen, and that he considers the sending a special Plenipotentiary to Constantinople as optional to each Government, still, not wishing by raising objections to retard the work of pacification, he does not hesitate to declare that Italy will be represented in the Conference, "in which all the other Guaranteeing Powers shall have agreed to take part."

No. 902.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 8, 1876.

AT an interview with the Russian Ambassador to-day I asked his Excellency whether he could tell me what were the views of his Government with regard to the administrative reforms required for the Turkish Provinces. I said that I thought that, without in any way pledging our respective Governments, it might be an advantage to have an exchange of ideas on the subject before the Special Plenipotentiaries commenced the more formal discussions.

He told me that he was unable to give me an answer from his own knowledge, but that, anticipating the question I had put, he had telegraphed to his own Government to ask for an outline of the Russian plan which he might communicate to me.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 903.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 8, 1876.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the Queen has been pleased to appoint the Most Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to be Her Majesty's Special Ambassador to attend the proposed Conference jointly with yourself.

I have informed by telegraph the Governments of the Guaranteeing Powers of this having been done, and have to request your Excellency also to inform the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 904.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 9.)

(Extract.) *Bucharest, November* 2, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship, a copy of the Speech delivered by Prince Charles this day, on the opening of an extraordinary Session of the Roumanian Legislature.

Your Lordship will observe, that the message lays stress on the position of this country in respect of the Guaranteeing Powers.

Inclosure in No. 904.

Speech of Prince Charles on opening an extraordinary Session of the Roumanian Chambers, November 2, 1876.

Messieurs les Sénateurs,
Messieurs les Députés,

DEVANT la nécessité que le pays éprouve de voir terminée, un jour plus tôt, l'œuvre laborieuse des réformes et des améliorations, qu'il attend de vous avec une légitime impatience, et en présence des graves circonstances où nous nous trouvons, au milieu des événements qui se déroulent autour de nous; j'ai pris la résolution d'avancer l'époque fixée par la Constitution pour la réunion des Corps Législatifs et de vous convoquer en session extraordinaire.

Nos relations avec les Etats étrangers sont des meilleures. Nous recevons de la part de toutes les Puissances Garantes des encouragements pour le maintien de notre attitude de neutralité, attitude que mon Gouvernement a adoptée dès le commencement des luttes engagées dans la presqu'île des Balcans.

La Sublime Porte elle-même paraît déjà plus disposée à reconnaître la justice de nos revendications.

Nous pouvons affirmer que, chaque jour, nous recevons les meilleurs témoignages des sentiments de bienveillance dont les Grandes Puissances de l'Europe sont animées à l'égard de la Roumanie.

Ainsi, grâce à la direction prudente et ferme que la representation nationale a imprimée à mon Gouvernement, nous sommes en droit d'espérer que, si des périls au-dessus de ses forces menaçaient l'Etat Roumain, le puissant bouclier de l'Europe garante ne nous ferait pas défaut pour la défense de notre intégrité territoriale et de nos droits nationaux. Cependant, nous avons l'entière conviction qu'un très proche avenir apportera la tranquillité en Orient, grâce aux efforts que toutes les Puissances Européennes font pour l'amélioration du sort des peuples Chrétiens.

Messieurs les Sénateurs,
Messieurs les Députés,

Cette session touchera, dans peu de jours, à la session ordinaire de l'année; les Budgets de l'année prochaine 1877 vous seront alors immédiatement présentés. Ils seront accompagnés des modifications à introduire dans les lois organiques des services publics, lesquels ont été reconnues nécessaires par les réductions que notre situation financière nous a imposées.

Ces modifications législatives devront être votées, en temps utile, avant le commencement de l'exercice de l'année 1877, et elles serviront ainsi à la discussion et au vote des Budgets pour l'année 1878.

Les autres Projets de Loi, tels que celui pour la prestation en nature relative à nos voies de communication, celui de la transformation de l'impôt personnel et celui de la réforme des Lois Départmentales et Communales, réclament tous également votre attention la plus sérieuse. Ce dernier projet est recommandé aux Corps Législatifs comme une réforme indispensable, afin d'assurer au pays les bienfaits du principe de la décentralisation administrative, sans lequel il est difficile d'établir une fois pour toutes cette autonomie communale prescrite solennellement par la Constitution. Les difficultés de la situation sont grandes et nombreuses; cependant je ne doute pas que les Roumains, par leur union et par leur patriotisme, ne sachent aujourd'hui, comme par le passé, les surmonter et les vaincre.

Ainsi vos travaux seront bénis.

CHARLES.

Le Président du Conseil des Ministres, Ministre des Finances, JEAN C. BRATIANO.
Ministre de l'Intérieur, G. D. VERNESCO.
Ministre de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics, D. STOURDZA.
Ministre de la Guerre, Colonel N. SLANICEANO.
Ministre des Cultes et de l'Instruction Publique, G. CHITO.
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, N. IONESCO.
Ministre de la Justice, EUGÈNE STATESCO.

Bucarest, le 2 Novembre, 1876.

(Translation.)

Messieurs les Sénateurs,
Messieurs les Députés,

IN view of the anxiety felt by the country to see the laborious work of reforms and amendments which it is waiting for with legitimate impatience, brought to a conclusion as soon as possible, and in the presence of the important circumstances in which we find ourselves in the midst of the events which are taking place around us, I have determined to anticipate the time fixed by the Constitution for the assembling of the legislative bodies, and to call on you to attend a special session.

Our relations with the Foreign States are most satisfactory. We are encouraged by all the Guaranteeing Powers to maintain our neutral attitude, an attitude which my Government has adopted since the very beginning of the struggle now going on in the Peninsular of the Balkans.

The Sublime Porte herself seems already more disposed to recognise the justice of our claims.

We may affirm that every day we receive the amplest proofs of the good feelings which animate the Great Powers of Europe with regard to Roumania.

Thus, thanks to the prudent and firm direction which the national representatives have impressed on my Government, we have grounds for hoping that if perils threatened the State of Roumania, which it were out of their power to repel, the mighty shield of Guaranteeing Europe would not fail to assist us in defending the integrity of our dominions and our national rights. Nevertheless, we have the full conviction that a future near at hand will bring tranquillity to the East, thanks to the efforts of all the Powers of Europe for the amelioration of the lot of the Christian population.

Messieurs les Sénateurs,
Messieurs les Députés,

This Session will in a few days merge into the ordinary Session of the year. The Budgets of next year, 1877, will then be immediately presented to you. They will be accompanied by modifications to be introduced into the organic laws of the State service, which have been recognized as necessary, owing to the reductions which our financial situation require of us.

This legislative modification ought to be voted in good time before the beginning of the official financial year 1877, and they will thus serve for discussion during the vote for the Budgets for the year 1878.

The other projects of the law, such as that for *prestation* as regards our roads and highways, that also for the transformation of the personal tax, and that for the reform of the departmental and communal laws, all equally demand your most serious attention. This last project is recommended to the legislative bodies as an indispensible reform, so as to secure to the country the benefits of the principle of administrative decentralisation, without which it is difficult to establish once for all that communal autonomy solemnly prescribed by the Constitution. The difficulties of the situation are great and many; nevertheless, I do not doubt but that the Roumanians, by their union and their patriotism, will know now, as in the past, how to surmount and conquer them.

So will your work be blessed.

(Signed) CHARLES.

The President of the Council of Ministers, Minister of the Finances, JEAN C. BRATIANO.
Minister of the Interior, G. D. VERNESCO.
Minister of Agriculture, of Commerce, and Public Works, D. STOURDZA.
Minister of War, Colonel N. SLANICEANO.
Minister of Public Worship and Public Instruction, G. CHILTO.
Minister of Foreign Affairs, N. JONESCO.
Minister of Justice, EUGÈNE STATESCO.

Bucharest, November 2, 1876.

No. 905.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 8, 1876.*

WITH reference to Prince Gortchakow's suggestion about the attendance of Second Plenipotentiaries at the preliminary discussions, I would submit that the moment when their presence may be most beneficial will be precisely when the measures to be adopted are being discussed.

The presence of a British Cabinet Minister would have weight with some of the Representatives.

No. 906.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 9, 1876, 3·45 P.M.*

INFORM Consuls Holmes and Blunt, and any other Consuls of experience whom it may be desirable to consult, that they will probably be required to meet Lord Salisbury at Constantinople.

No. 907.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 9, 1876, 3·50 P.M.*

IT will be desirable that you should proceed to Constantinople, in order that Lord Salisbury may consult you on the state of the Slavonic provinces.

No. 908.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 9, 1876.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 21st ultimo, reporting your conversation with the Grand Vizier respecting the punishment of the persons concerned in the late outrages in Bulgaria; and I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your efforts to induce the Porte to show greater activity in bringing to justice every one implicated in those atrocities.

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much regret the unsatisfactory replies of the Grand Vizier on this subject, and they have no doubt that your Excellency will continue to urge the matter upon the most serious attention of the Porte.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 909.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 9, 1876.*

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of the 3rd instant, reporting the observations which the Duc Decazes had made to you the same morning on the subject of the proposed Conference for the settlement of the Eastern question, and that his Excellency wished to be informed of my views on certain points which are enumerated in your Lordship's despatch.

In reply, I have to observe to your Lordship that my despatch of the 4th instant, states fully the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting the proposed Conference, and I have to request your Lordship to explain this to the French Government, and to thank them for communicating so promptly with Her Majesty's Government, and

informing them of the proposal to summon the French Ambassador from Constantinople to Paris to receive instructions.

I have already informed your Excellency by telegraph, for communication to the French Government, that Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for India, to attend the proposed Conference, as Special Ambassador, conjointly with Sir H. Elliot.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 910.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 9, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 19th ultimo, in which you inform me that, in view of the instructions received by the Russian Agent at Belgrade from his Government, you had deemed it better to abstain from urging the Prince of Servia to accept the armistice of five months proposed by the Porte; and, in reply, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your conduct in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 911.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

My Lord, *Berlin, November* 6, 1876.

I COMMUNICATED the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 4th instant, conveying the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference to be held forthwith at Constantinople, to the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, to be submitted to the Emperor and forwarded to Prince Bismarck at Varzin.

His Excellency said that there could be no objection on the part of the German Government to the appointment of a second Plenipotentiary if necessary, and that meanwhile instructions would be sent to the German Ambassador at Constantinople to attend the proposed preliminary discussions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 912.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

My Lord, *Paris, November* 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram *en clair*, dated 2·25 P.M. to-day, and to inform you that, in execution of the instruction contained in it, I have addressed to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs a note informing him that the Queen has been pleased to appoint the Marquis of Salisbury to be Her Majesty's special Ambassador to attend the proposed Conference jointly with Sir Henry Elliot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 913.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha' November 10.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 8 *Novembre,* 1876.

SON Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre m'a communiqué le télégramme de son Excellence Lord Derby concernant la réunion à Constantinople d'une Conférence qui prendrait pour bases de ses délibérations:—

1. L'indépendance et l'intégrité de l'Empire.
2. La rénonciation des Puissances médiatrices à tout avantage exclusif.
3. Les termes de pacification proposés dans son télégramme du 21 Septembre, et qui portent le retour au *statu quo ante* pour la Serbie et le Monténégro, et l'établissement d'une autonomie administrative et locale pour certaines autres parties de l'Empire.

Nous sommes on ne peut plus reconnaissants de la sollicitude de sa Seigneurie pour mettre un terme aux embarras de la situation actuelle ; nous apprécions la haute valeur des vues de son Excellence ; seulement nous nous demandons si, en adhérant à un pareil programme, le Gouvernement Impérial ne se trouvera pas immédiatement entraîné sur un terrain des plus désavantageux pour lui. Le Gouvernement Impérial, en ce moment, est en train de procéder à la mise en exécution et à l'application des nouvelles institutions. Il comprend les exigences de la situation et les signes des temps ; il a hâté de faire voir par les faits qu'il poursuit une œuvre de rénovation sérieuse et radicale. Est-ce le moment pour lui de s'engager dans une discussion concernant des autonomies locales ? Un pareil principe aurait pour conséquence inévitable de faire avorter les réformes en cours, de détruire par là le prestige de l'autorité, de créer des inégalités choquantes, de soulever dans la pratique des difficultés insurmontables, de garantir une prime aux mouvements insurrectionnels, de faire prendre à la crise un caractère permanent, de constituer en un mot un état de choses qui serait une menace perpétuelle pour la paix de l'Empire et de l'Europe. Indépendamment de ce qui pourrait être dit au sujet des autonomies, la Sublime Porte ne peut se dissimuler la grave atteinte qui serait portée au principe même de l'indépendance de l'Empire, si les affaires intérieures devenaient l'objet des délibérations d'une Conférence internationale. Comment pourrait-elle se résigner à renverser de ses propres mains, en participant à une Conférence ayant pour objet de régler les affaires intérieures de l'Empire, la plus forte barrière que l'Empire puisse mettre aujourd'hui entre lui et ses adversaires ? Une fois l'œuvre du Traité de Paris mise de côté, on se trouverait à la merci des événements. Tandis qu'une attaque contre l'Empire constituerait aujourd'hui la violation d'un Traité solennel et un pur acte d'aggression, cette attaque, dans le cas où la Conférence n'aboutirait pas, se présenterait comme le résultat inévitable des divergences survenues dans le courant de discussions dont la Sublime Porte aurait admis le principe. Soit donc que la Conférence proposée aboutisse, soit qu'elle n'aboutisse pas, le Gouvernement Impérial n'en sortirait pas moins amoindri dans son indépendance ou bien dans les moyens de défense que lui assurent aujourd'hui des engagements internationaux.

Son Excellence Lord Derby, en prenant connaissance des considérations qui précèdent, et qui résument la pensée intime du Gouvernement Impérial, saura discerner, nous n'en doutons pas, la vraie situation de la Sublime Porte.

Nous sommes prêts à faire tout ce qui dépendra de nous pour ramener un moment plus tôt l'ère de la paix et de la tranquillité. Mais la réunion d'une Conférence serait de trop grand inconvénient pour qu'il ne nous soit pas permis de désirer que le Cabinet Britannique veuille bien consentir à ce que l'entente désirée soit obtenue sans la réunion de Plénipotentiaires étrangères ayant pour mission d'engager une discussion sur l'administration intérieure de l'Empire.

Veuillez bien donner lecture à Lord Derby du présent télégramme.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 8, 1876.

HIS Excellency the English Ambassador has communicated to me the telegram from His Excellency Lord Derby concerning the meeting at Constantinople of a Conference which would take for bases of its deliberations :—

1. The independence and integrity of the Empire.
2. The renunciation by the Mediating Powers of all exclusive advantage.
3. The terms of pacification proposed in his telegram of September 21, which lay down the return to the *status quo ante* for Servia and Montenegro, and the establishment of administrative and local autonomy for certain other parts of the Empire.

We are most grateful for the anxiety of his Lordship to put an end to the difficulties of the present situation; we appreciate the great value of his Excellency's views; we only ask ourselves whether, by giving its adhesion to such a programme, the Imperial Government will not immediately find itself drawn into a position most disadvantageous to it. The Imperial Government, at this moment, is engaged in proceeding to put into execution, and to apply, new institutions. It understands the exigencies of the situation, and the signs of the times; it has hastened to make clear by its actions that it is carrying out a work of earnest and radical renovation. Is this the moment for it

to engage in a discussion concerning local autonomy? The inevitable consequence of such a principle would be to render abortive the reforms in course of being carried out, and thus to destroy the prestige of the authorities, to create offensive inequalities, to raise insurmountable difficulties in practice, to guarantee a premium to insurrectionary movements, to give the crisis a permanent character, in one word to bring about a state of things which would be a perpetual menace to the peace of the Empire and of Europe. Independently of what might b e said on the subject of autonomy, the Sublime Porte cannot conceal from itself the serious blow which would be struck at the principle of the independence of the Empire itself, if its internal affairs became the object of the deliberations of an International Conference.

How could she resign herself to overthrow with her own hands, by taking part in a Conference whose object is to regulate the internal affairs of the Empire, the strongest barrier which the Empire can now set between herself and her enemies? Once the work of the Treaty of Paris put on one side, we shall find ourselves at the mercy of events. Whereas now an attack on the Empire would be the violation of a solemn Treaty and an act of pure aggression, such an attack, in case the Conference failed, would appear the inevitable result of differences of opinion which had arisen in the course of discussions, the principle of which had been agreed to by the Sublime Porte. Whether, then, the proposed Conference were to succeed, or whether it were to fail, the Imperial Government would none the less come out of it with diminished independence, or, at any rate, with those means of defence much crippled which are now secured to her by international engagements.

His Excellency Lord Derby, when he becomes acquainted with the preceding considerations which sum up the inmost thoughts of the Imperial Government, will perceive, we do not doubt, the real situation of the Sublime Porte.

We are ready to do all in our power to bring back, as soon as possible, the era of peace and tranquillity. But the meeting of a Conference would be too disadvantageous for us not to wish that the English Cabinet may consent that the desired understanding be obtained without the meeting of foreign Plenipotentiaries having as their mission the discussion of the internal administration of the Empire.

Be so good as to read this telegram to Lord Derby.

No. 914.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 10, 1876.

I HOPE you will send out a very ample staff with Lord Salisbury, for my own men are greatly overworked, and want help.

No. 915.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1876.

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to communicate to the Sublime Porte my despatch of the 30th ultimo to Lord A. Loftus, giving a summary of the course of the recent negotiations, a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch of the 2nd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 916.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1876.

YOUR telegram of the 8th instant has been received, and, in reply, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government cannot authorize any prelimi-

* A similar despatch was addressed to Lord Lyons and Sir A. Paget.

nary discussions before Lord Salisbury arrives at Constantinople, and until the bases of the Conference are settled.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 917.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1876.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that I have received a communication from the Russian Embassy informing me that Prince Gortchakow has notified to his Excellency Count Schouvaloff by telegraph that the Imperial Government accepts as it stands ("tel quel") the programme which Her Majesty's Government have proposed for the meeting of the Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 918.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.**

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1876.

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to communicate to the German Government the despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, copy of which was inclosed to you in my despatch of the 1st instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 919.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 10, 1876.

BEFORE leaving Vienna last Sunday, Count Andrassy instructed Count Beust to inform your Lordship that he accepted the Conference in principle.

He has seen the Emperor, and I shall probably be able to learn to-morrow whether any decision was taken about the arrangements for the Conference.

No. 920.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 11.)

My Lord, *Madrid, November* 7, 1876.

SENOR CALDERON COLLANTES mentioned to me yesterday that the Spanish Minister at Constantinople had asked him what advice he should give to the Turkish Government, if his opinion was invited as to the best settlement of the question now under discussion between it and the Great Powers. His Excellency said that if the advice of Spain were requested, which he did not think very probable, he had instructed Señor Conde to recommend the Porte to accept the terms proposed to it by your Lordship which, Señor Calderon Collantes observed, were the best calculated to secure peace. But, his Excellency added, all the Spanish Representatives abroad, with the exception of the Minister in London, seemed to be convinced that, although an armistice might lead to the suspension of hostilities for a time, war between Russia and Turkey was inevitable. Happily Spain had nothing to do with the Turkish question, and would hold entirely aloof from taking any part in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* A similar despatch was addressed to Sir A. Buchanan.

No. 921.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 11, 1·28 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 11, 1876, 12·30 P.M.

RUSSIAN papers report following speech of Emperor last night at Moscow :—

"During my whole reign I have endeavoured to obtain for the Christians in the East what right and justice demand. Unfortunately my pacific efforts have not obtained desired result. A Conference is now about to assemble at Constantinople, in which Russia will present her demands. If her endeavours are not crowned with success, Russia will be forced to take up arms, and I count on support of my people."

No. 922.

*Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received November* 11, 4·55 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 11, 1876, 3·30 P.M.

M. DE GIERS has informed me that the Emperor and Prince Gortchakow will arrive very early on Monday morning at Tzarsko Selo.

With regard to Emperor's speech at Moscow, of which he has no official intimation, his Excellency considers it not in the light of a menace to appeal to arms, but as a wish, by following the national sentiment, to keep the initiative out of the hands of Slav Committees.

No. 923.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1876.

I HAVE to-day requested your Excellency by telegraph to give the following information to Mr. Monson :—

I have been informed by Count Münster that he has received a telegram from Berlin notifying to him the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonels Von Mantey and Von Lubeck as German Commissioners for fixing the line of demarcation between the positions of the belligerents ; the former officer being selected to act in Servia and the latter in Montenegro. It was intended that they should start to-day from Berlin.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 924.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the telegraphic despatch from the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs which your Excellency was so good as to communicate to me yesterday afternoon.

Her Majesty's Government understand from that despatch and from the explanations with which your Excellency accompanied its communication, that the Porte's objections to a Conference are as follows :—

That the expression "local autonomy" used in the proposed basis for a Conference is not employed in any Treaty, is unknown to diplomacy, is vague and elastic in meaning, and may be construed as implying the concession to the provinces to which it is applied of a position of quasi-independence like that enjoyed by Servia and Roumania ;

That it would be very impolitic to give special advantages to Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, inasmuch as a distinction made in favour of those provinces would afford good ground of complaint from the other province of the Empire which have remained loyal, and would be, in fact, a premium on insurrection ;

* Repeated to Embassies.

That new institutions and reforms for the whole Empire having been proclaimed by the Sultan, it would be inexpedient to interfere with their operation by the discussion of fresh measures of administration for these particular provinces;

And, lastly, that it is contrary to Treaty obligations and to international usage for the Powers to assemble in Conference to discuss the internal administration of the Turkish Empire.

I have now the honour to state to your Excellency the observations which occur to Her Majesty's Government in regard to the several objections taken by the Porte to the proposal for a Conference which Her Majesty's Government have submitted to the Porte and to the Powers.

Her Majesty's Government understand and appreciate the feelings with which the Porte may regard that proposal, but I must remind your Excellency that under the circumstances of the situation there was no alternative open. The conditions of peace which Her Majesty's Government had agreed upon with the other Governments and recommended for the acceptance of the Porte, not having been accepted by the Turkish Government, the Russian Government proposed the occupation of Bosnia by an Austrian, and of Bulgaria by a Russian force, and the entry of the allied fleets into the Bosphorus. Her Majesty's Government intimated that they were unable to concur in these measures, and it became evident that, unless some suggestion were made which would meet with general concurrence, serious complications might ensue. Her Majesty's Government then reverted to the proposal for an armistice which they had made some time previously, to be followed by a Conference, as the only means remaining which afforded a prospect of arriving at a general agreement.

Her Majesty's Government feel confident that the Porte must be sensible of the necessity of such an agreement being attained, and of the hopelessness of expecting that, without concert with the Powers, a satisfactory settlement of existing differences can be brought about.

Her Majesty's Government cannot admit that, in the basis for a Conference which they have advanced, there is anything contrary to the Treaty obligations subsisting between the Powers and the Porte, or that the Powers are precluded by Treaty from assembling in Conference to discuss the pacification of the Turkish provinces and the measures of administrative reform best adapted for that purpose. I need scarcely remind your Excellency that Conferences were held for a similar object in 1860 and 1867. Moreover, communications have been proceeding among the Powers for the last two years, and the Porte both itself accepted, and urged on the acceptance of Her Majesty's Government, the note of Count Andrassy. There can, therefore, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be no question that the Powers have the right to discuss matters relating to the internal administration of the Ottoman Empire under circumstances like those which have occasioned the present proposal for a Conference.

I have also the honour to point out to your Excellency that both in the telegraphic despatch which your Excellency has communicated to me, and in your Excellency's own observations, the definition given to the expression "autonomy" has been overlooked. Her Majesty's Government have expressly guarded themselves against any proposal for the grant of institutions to these provinces similar to those of Roumania and Servia.

In the basis for a Conference it is distinctly stated that by "local or administrative autonomy" is "to be understood a system of local institutions, which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State."

Her Majesty's Government are disposed to agree with the Porte that administrative reforms, which may be desirable for one part of the Empire, can scarcely be withheld from the rest of it; but they cannot regard this as a reason for not entering upon a Conference to determine what reforms are now required to ensure the pacification of the disturbed provinces.

If the Conference succeeds in agreeing upon a scheme of administration which may have that effect and be otherwise advantageous, it would of course be open to the Porte, and would seem desirable, to extend it, as far as might be applicable, to other provinces; but the immediate necessity which has to be met is to restore order and tranquillity in Bosnia and Herzegovina, repair and redress the injuries to which the population of Bulgaria have been subjected, and punish the perpetrators. The Imperial Hatt proclaiming the new reforms for the Empire will doubtless receive he amplest consideration from the Plenipotentiaries of the Powers when assembled at Constantinople; and due weight will, no doubt, be given to the manifest utility

of adapting any new schemes of administration to the existing institutions of the country, so far as they may be efficient; but Her Majesty's Government regret that they cannot accept the Proclamation of these reforms as in itself sufficient; nor, were they disposed to do so, would there be any probability of the other Powers assenting to such a course.

Since, therefore, concert among the Powers is imperative, and the only means left of arriving at it is by a Conference, Her Majesty's Government trust that the Porte will no longer hesitate to join the other Powers in a prompt acceptance of the Conference on the basis which Her Majesty's Government have proposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 925.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October 27, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Elliot relative to the settlement of Circassians in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 925.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, October 27, 1876.*

THE following is an extract of a letter from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, dated Larissa the 19th instant:—

"I have not been able yet to obtain any statement of the number and distribution of Circassians in Thessaly, upon the accuracy of which I can place reliance, but do not despair of procuring one to forward to you ere long.

"Meanwhile I am led to believe that, for the present, at least, no further of these objectionable importations hither are contemplated."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 926.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October 28, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Elliot, with copies of its three inclosures relative to the feelings of the Christian inhabitants of Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 926.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, October 28, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose three extracts from the correspondence lately addressed to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Suter at Larissa, Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney at Prevesa, and Captain Synge, my correspondent in district of Veria in Macedonia.

The information which these extracts contain is interesting when viewed in connection with the eventual designs of Greece against Turkey, about which the Mahommedan inhabitants appear to feel some anxiety and alarm.

What Captain Synge says about the Christian Rayahs is valuable, as it comes from practical experience of the country, and thoroughly supports all I have heard from persons who have lived long in this country and have had business transactions with the peasantry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 926.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Larissa, October* 21, 1876.

EVENTS certainly seem assuming grave proportions, and will need watchfulness in this quarter.

Taking the majority I do not think there is any disposition or desire to rise among this Christian population, and that it would prefer being left quiet; but the restless are not wanting, and our neighbours over the border will make the most of these as opportunities offer, and will not fail to cause trouble on the frontier.

We are told that warlike preparations are progressing in Greece, but no movement this way yet is indicated, and matters here still are very quiet.

Rumours are current that Egyptian troops will be sent hither. The force already in the province (Thessaly), excepting a small part at Armyro, Domoko, &c., has continued up to this time camped here, but is preparing to break up for winter quarters after the Bairam, and as Larissa affords insufficient accommodation the bulk will be distributed at Carditza, with Tricalla and the other towns above-named.

The health of the troops throughout the summer has been, and still is, more satisfactory than could well be expected, and, on the whole, their conduct has not left much to be complained of.

Last week some rows took place in the bazaar, owing to soldiers insisting for heavy change for paper money tendered upon small purchases, and the shops shut up in consequence; but prompt action of the authorities soon restored order, without any serious disturbance of public tranquility.

I am informed that the inhabitants of the "Kaleh," or citadel at Volo, who, as you know, are all Moslems, lately applied to and have all obtained rifles from Government, fearing some movement there of the Christians against them; but I cannot discover that any such pretext has been put forward, and similar demand made by other Mahomedans of Thessaly.

The peasantry are in despair at the prolonged drought prevailing, which renders all tillage impossible, and which begins to threaten very serious consequences.

Inclosure 3 in No. 926.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Prevesa, October* 14, 1876.

SINCE I last wrote I heard again from Mr. Consular Agent Kipriotio, and he is still of opinion that the Christians are in danger of being massacred. This is what he writes on the subject in his private letter of the 8th instant:—

(Traduction.)

"Les Turcs convoitent toujours à massacrer les Chrétiens, d'autant plus si quelque signe de révolution se fait jour près des frontières Grecques.

"Le reveil de l'opinion publique en Europe, après les cruautés de la Bulgarie, leurs on fait apprendre à penser toujours de former un dessein de massacre, qui pour eux serait admissible et justifié."

He also acquaints me that three brigands have been captured, and that eleven harbourers of brigands have also been arrested. He makes no allusion, however, to the Bishop of Argyrocastro, who, I am informed, is detained there (Janina) by the Archbishop in accordance with instructions from the Patriarch of Constantinople, to whom the Pasha of Janina has complained that the above Bishop tried his best to prevent Christians from contributing money when, a short time ago, Government appealed to the people for pecuniary aid.

Inclosure 4 in No. 926.

Captain Synge to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Tricovista, District of Veria, October* 15, 1876.

OF the feelings of Turks and Christians with regard to acting in unison for the suppression of brigandage, I fear that the abuse of authority by the parties employed in pursuit of bands of brigands causes a reticence on the part of the peasantry, and makes them rather bear the ills they have than run the double risk of the vengeance of the brigands and a squeezing from some police officer who may quarter himself on the village.

This was not the case when Mehmed Ali Pasha put down brigandage in Thessaly and Macedonia.

A village is called upon (I say a village, but it may be a monastery, one or two houses, or a shepherd) to furnish bread to the brigands; they dare not refuse, or, having given it, they dare not give information to the authorities, or vengeance would be speedily wrecked upon them. On the other hand, should an inkling arrive at the ears of the party in pursuit, the chances are that the petty officer with his party of police will take the opportunity to levy blackmail on the village. A monk in this district was murdered shortly before the death of Soteer for giving information at Veria after having been obliged to give bread to some brigands.

But there is one point which ought to be of assistance in the suppression of brigandage, which is that without local knowledge they cannot last in a district. Strange brigands from distant parts, without the direct connivance and assistance of persons in the locality, cannot sustain themselves.

The few Albanians who committed some small depredations in the early part of this summer were an instance of this, as they had always to press a shepherd as guide from one point to another, and on one occasion were led up to one of the police-stations by a prisoner they had taken, under pretence of bringing them to a sheepfold. Thus, without one or more of a band being connected more or less with the locality, they would be unable to maintain a footing in the district.

That parties of Turks and Christians go out in pursuit of brigands when their presence is known in the district, and that they act in unison and perfectly amicably one with the other, we have daily instances.

Up on the mountains the other day we met a party so composed of twelve persons, who had been out fourteen days.

No band of brigands could exist on the mountains above Veria without its being brought to the knowledge of the authorities, as the police scouts are out in all directions, and their arrangements are excellent.

I see no change in the feelings of the Christians towards the Turks. They are decidedly unfriendly, but not more so than heretofore. As regards any disturbing action the Greeks might take, as I before told you, all, or nearly all, in my neighbourhood are Tchiftlik villages,* which it would be difficult to raise in rebellion, but which, once raised, would be the worst, as having more mischief in their power, and their minds being more easily acted on with promises of the land they now cultivate by halves becoming theirs altogether.

But the state of the Tchiftlik villages can be taken as no criterion for the rest of the country; and, after passing the Veria hills, the villages become "Kephalochori,"† and there are large Greek villages (Koniars), and to the north-east Bulgarians.

If you were to collect all the Tchorbajies of the Tchiftliks and ask them to name any improvements to their status they could wish, I firmly believe (leaving taxation out of the question, which can never be excessive on a population enjoying 165 days of idleness) they would be limited to more civility when in contact with petty officials. There is no doubt that, whether it is a tax-gatherer, a tithesman, a policeman, or any one dressed with a little authority, they do bustle the unfortunate individual with whom they come in contact.

The taxes have been largely reduced this year, and bear heavily on scarcely any of the villages.

The annoyances of cattle robbery and horse-stealing bear very heavily sometimes, but are nearly always committed with the assistance of some of the neighbours. Occasionally the Albanian employés on the Tchiftliks go on marauding expeditions,

* "Tchiftlik," a farm owned by an individual proprietor, and worked by tenants on the "metayer" system.

† "Kephalochori," an independent village, the land of which belongs to and is worked by the proprietors, generally Christians.

and loot the house of some Tchorbaje who is known to have some accumulation wealth.

Beyond these drawbacks, I don't know any class of people in the world better off than the Christian "Rayah" of a Tchiftlik property: if ill-treated, he is always at liberty to leave; if bad times come, his landlord has to support him; if his oxen die, his landlord has to advance him the money for new ones; so that there is no possible reason why there should be any bad feeling between Turk and Christian, nor do I think that such could be raised to a dangerous extent, without playing upon the avarice of the Greek in the way I before mentioned.

Of the "Kephalochori" I cannot pretend to give an opinion, but I should fancy that it would be in them that would exist any danger of a display of ill-feeling towards the Turks.

No. 927.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November* 1, 1876.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of some further correspondence respecting the Bulgarian women and children who have been carried away from Batak, and are supposed be detained at Nevrocop and other districts of the Vilayet of Salonica.

I am in constant communication on the subject with the Pasha of Salonica; and I have the satisfaction to report to your Lordship that he seems to me to be doing his best f the restoration of these poor people to their homes; but he does not receive from some his provincial subordinates, in particular Ali Bey, the Mutessarif of Drama, the co-operation and support which their authority and local knowledge enable them to give. He has addressed a complaint to the Porte against the above-named Mutessarif.

Hoping that your Lordship will approve of my action in this matter, I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 927.

Correspondence respecting Bulgarian Women and Children carried away from Batak.

(No. 1.)

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Dear Sir, *Philippopolis, October* 10, 1876.

IT has been reported to me that one of the young women carried away by the Bashi-Bazouks from the village of Batak is now detained in or somewhere near Salonica. I venture to bring the matter to your notice, as you are naturally in a better position than I can be to ascertain the truth of the report, and procure the liberation of the girl if she be anywhere in your neighbourhood.*

I am told that this is not the only girl kept a prisoner in your vilayet. About forty young women have been brought back from villages near Nevrocop, but I hear that some eight or ten are still detained in that district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

(No. 2.)

Consul Blunt to the Consul-General of Salonica.

Salonique, le 15 *Octobre*, 1876.

Je m'empresse de remercier votre Excellence pour la lettre qu'elle m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 12 courant en réponse à la mienne de la même date relative-

* The authorities of Salonica are trying to discover where and by whom this girl is detained in this town they do not think that she has been brought here at all.—*October* 31, 1876.—J. E. BLUNT.

ment à la fille Bulgare qui aurait été enlevée de Batak par un Mahométan de Nevrocop.

Je viens de recevoir par le courrier qui est arrivé aujourd'hui de Constantinople une lettre du Vice-Consul Britannique à Philippopolis en date du 12 courant, m'informant qu'une jeune fille Bulgare de celles qui furent enlevées de Batak est détenue à Salonique ou dans ses parages.

Il m'informe aussi que huit ou dix de ces filles sont détenues dans le district de Nevrocop.

Je suis sûr que votre Excellence ordonnera aux autorités compétentes de faire les récherches les plus assidues et complétes pour découvrir ces filles afin de les restituer à leurs parents; et j'attendrais avec impatience d'apprendre de votre Excellence le résultat des mesures qu'elle prendra à cet égard.

(Translation.)

Salonica, October 15, 1876.

I hasten to thank your Excellency for the letter which you did me the honour of addressing to me on the 12th ultimo in answer to mine of the same date, relating to a Bulgarian girl who had been carried off from Batak by a Mahomedan of Nevrokop.

I have just received, by the courrier who arrived to-day from Constantinople, a letter from the Britannic Vice-Consul at Philippopolis dated the 12th ultimo, informing me that one of the young Bulgarian girls who were carried off from Batak is detained at Salonica or in the neighbourhood.

He further informs me that eight or ten of these girls are detained in the district of Nevrokop.

I am certain that your Excellency will give orders to the proper authorities to make the most assiduous and complete researches to discover these girls in order they may be restored to their parents; and I shall wait impatiently for news from your Excellency as to the result of the measures which you will adopt with respect to this.

(No. 3.)

The Governor-General of Salonica to Consul Blunt.

(Traduction.) *Salonique, le* 23 *Octobre*, 1876.

J'ai reçu votre communication relativement à la fille Bulgare qui aurait été enlevée de Batak, et qu'on dit être détenue dans ces parages; la même relatait que huit ou dix autres filles Bulgares du même village seraient aussi cachées et détenues dans la Province de Serres.*

L'autorité centrale du Vilayet poursuit activement la recherche de ces filles, afin de pouvoir les restituer à leur patrie et parents; et ne manque pas de donner les ordres les plus sévères dans ce but aux autorités provinciales. Par conséquence, les informations que vous avez eues la bonté de me fournir répondent aux désirs et intentions de l'autorité sur ce sujet, et en vous témoignant toute notre satisfaction là-dessus, nous vous informons que nous avons de nouveau donné des ordres péremptoires y relatifs aux autorités compétentes.

(Translation.)

Salonica, October 23, 1876.

I have received your communication relating to the Bulgarian girl who was carried off from Batak, and who is reported to be detained in this neighbourhood. You informed me at the same time that eight or ten other Bulgarian girls of the same village were also hidden and detained in the province of Serres.

The central authority of the vilayet is actively carrying on a search for these girls in order to be able to restore them to their parents; and it does not fail to give the strictest orders with this object to the provincial authorities.

In consequence, the information which you have had the goodness to furnish me answer to the desires and wishes of the authorities on the subject, and in assuring you of our satisfaction therewith, we inform you that we have given fresh and peremptory orders on the subject to the competent authorities.

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* Nevrocop is in the province of Serres.

(No. 4.)

Acting British Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul Blunt.

(Traduction.)
(Extrait.) *Cavalla, October 25,* 1876.

Deux jeunes garçons Bulgares ont été conduits ici de Shari-Shaban, provenant du village Batak, et le Gouverneur ayant constaté (en présence du représentant de l'Evêque Grec) qu'ils furent enlevés lors de la destruction de ce village, il les a expédié au Mutessarif de Drama, qui en informera le Pacha de Salonique.

On dit aussi qu'il y a beaucoup de ces jeunes gens cachés dans les districts de Drama, mais je ne suis pas sûr si ce bruit est fondé.

(Translation.)

(Extract.) *Cavalla, Ocotber 25,* 1876.

Two young Bulgarian boys, belonging to the village of Batak, have been brought here from Shari-Shabar, and the Governor having ascertained (in the presence of the representative of the Greek Bishop) that they were carried off at the time of the destruction of that village, he has sent them to the Mutessarif of Drama, who will communicate with the Pasha of Salonica respecting them.

It is also said that there are a great number of these young people hidden in the districts of Drama, but I am not certain whether this rumour has any foundation.

(No. 5.)

Consul Blunt to Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla.

(Télégraphique.) *Salonique, le 26 Octobre,* 1876.

Procurez et envoyez-moi des détails précis concernant les garçons Bulgares de Batak qu'on dit être détenus dans la Province de Drama.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, October 26,* 1876.

Procure and send to me precise details concerning the Bulgarian boys from Batak who are said to be detained in the Province of Drama.

(No. 6.)

Consul Blunt to the Governor-General of Salonica.

Salonique, le 26 Octobre, 1876.

Je viens de recevoir aujourd'hui même une lettre du Vice-Consulat Britannique à Cavalla m'informant que deux jeunes garçons Bulgares de ceux qui furent enlèves de Batak ont été découverts et expediés par le Gouverneur de Cavalla au Mutessarif de Drama.

Le Vice-Consulat m'informe aussi qu'on dit que plusieurs jeunes garçons Bulgares se trouvent cachés, à l'heure qu'il est, dans les districts de la Province de Drama.

Dans l'espoir que votre Excellence conviendra avec moi qu'il serait mieux de faire venir à Salonique les deux garçons en question, je viens de la prier de vouloir bien donner des ordres télégraphiques à cet effet; et de prendre des mesures nécessaires à l'égard des autres garçons Bulgares qu'on dit être détenus dans la Province de Drama.

Note by Consul Blunt:—

The Pasha at once dispatched a telegraphic order to the Governor of Drama to send these two boys to Salonica. They were brought here on the 29th of October and taken to the Pasha's harem, where they are most kindly treated.

(Translation.)

Salonica, October 26, 1876.

I have just received this very day a letter from the British Vice-Consulate at Cavalla, informing me that two young Bulgarian boys of those who had been carried off from Batak have been discovered and sent by the Governor of Cavalla to the Mutessarif of Drama.

The Vice-Consulate informs me also that several young Bulgarian boys are said to be concealed at the present moment in the districts of the Province of Drama.

In the hope that your Excellency will concur with me that it will be better to have the two boys in question brought to Salonica, I request you to be good enough to give telegraphic orders to this effect, and to take the necessary measures with respect to the other Bulgarian boys who are said to be detained in the Province of Drama.

(No. 7.)

The Rev. J. F. Clarke to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Philippopolis, October* 18, 1876.

A young man from Batak, Fodore Pope Neshof, begs me to ask your assistance in the rescue of his sister from the Turks. Her name is Stephana P. Neshof, and, as he has learned, she is now in the house of the sons of Mehmed Agha of Osina in Kaza* of Nevrocop; her age is about sixteen; another girl, Ivana, is with her. There are also two others: Zlata, seventeen years, and Gena, eighteen, in the same place. The young man has been very kind to me and (*sic*) our efforts for his people, though suffering very much.

Whatever you can do for him I shall feel grateful for.

(No. 8.)

Consul Blunt to the Governor-General of Salonica.

Salonique, le 30 *Octobre*, 1876.

J'ai reçu la lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 23 courant, par laquelle elle m'informe qu'elle s'occupe sérieusement à découvrir les filles enlevées du village Batak pour les restituer ensuite à leurs parents.

Je crois nécessaire de donner connaissance à votre Excellence des informations que j'ai reçues par une lettre de Philippopolis sur ce même sujet.

Il résulterait de ces informations que des filles enlevées de Batak quatre se trouveraient à Osina, village du district de Nevrocop; deux d'entr'elles, l'une Stephana Neshof, âgée de 16 ans, l'autre Ivana, seraient retenues dans la maison des fils d'un certain Mehmet Agha. Les noms des deux autres sont Zlatau, âgée de 17 ans, et Gena, âgée de 18 ans. Mais on ignore chez qui elles sont cachées.

(Translation.)

Salonica, October 30, 1876.

I have received the letter which your Excellency has done me the honour of addressing to me, dated the 23rd ultimo, by which I am informed that you are taking serious steps to endeavour to discover the girls who have been carried off from the village of Batak, in order to restore them, when found, to their parents.

I think it necessary to communicate to your Excellency the information which I have received by a letter from Philippopolis on the same subject.

It would appear from this information that of the girls carried off from Batak, four are at present at Osina, a village of the district of Nevrokop; two of whom, one Stephana Neshof, sixteen years of age, the other Ivana, are said to be detained in the house of the sons of a certain Mehmet Agha. The names of the other two are Zlata and Gena, respectively seventeen and eighteen years of age; but it is not known where they are hidden.

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* District.

(No. 9.)

Consul Blunt to Acting Vice-Consul Calvert.

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, October* 31, 1876.

Two Bulgarian boys have been rescued, and will be sent to-day to Constantinople, to be restored to their parents at Batak.

Pasha of Salonica has dispatched Chief of Police to Nevrocop, to search for other children said to be detained there.

Inform Mr. Clarke.

(No. 10.)

Consul Blunt to Acting Vice-Consul Calvert.

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, November* 1, 1876.

Pasha of Salonica has ordered Governor of Serres to despatch to Philippopolis two Bulgarian young women, natives of Batak. It is said they embraced the Mahommedan faith, and married Turks shortly after their abduction.

(No. 11.)

The Governor-General of Salonica to Consul Blunt.

(Traduction.) *Salonique, le* 30 *Octobre,* 1876.

J'ai reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date d'aujourd'hui, par laquelle vous m'informez que quatre des filles Bulgares qui furent enlevées du village Batak se trouvent actuellement à Osina, village dépendant du district de Nevrocop.

Je m'empresse de vous informer que j'ai ordonné au Gouverneur de Serres de trouver sans faute les filles en question et de les envoyer à Philippopolis pour être restituées à leurs parents.

J'ai en outre ordonné au susdit Gouverneur que si quelque garçon ou fille Bulgare de Batak exprimerait volontairement même le désir d'adopter la religion Mahométane de ne pas donner suite à leur désir sans une autorisation spéciale de ma part.

Le Chef de la Police du vilayet se trouvant dans le sandjak de Drama, je lui ai donné des ordres stricts de se rendre sur les lieux et faire les recherches les plus complètes au sujet des autres (enfants) qui pourraient s'y trouver.

(Translation.)

Salonica, October 30, 1876.

I have received the letter which you have done me the honour of addressing to me to-day, in which you inform me that four of the Bulgarian girls who were carried off from the village of Batak are actually at Osina, a village dependent on the district of Nevrokop.

I hasten to inform you that I have given orders to the Governor of Serres to find without fail the girls in question, and to send them to Philippopolis to be restored to their parents.

I have besides enjoined upon the above-named Governor that if any Bulgarian boy or girl from Batak should express, even of their own free will, a desire to adopt the Mahomedan religion, their wish is not to be complied with without my special authority.

The Chief of the Police of the vilayet being in the Sandjak of Drama, I have given him strict orders to repair to the spot and make the most careful inquiry on the subject of the other children who it is supposed may be in the district.

(No. 12.)

The following instruction was unofficially communicated to Consul Blunt:—

The Governor-General of Salonica to the Lieutenant-Governor of Serres.

(Télégraphique.)
(Traduction.) *Salonique, le* 30 *Octobre,* 1876.

Il a été porté à ma connaissance que deux filles Bulgares, l'une nommée Stephana Neshof, et l'autre Ivana, qui furent enlevées du village Batak, se trouvent actuellement dans la maison des fils d'un certain Mehmed Agha, du village Isina ou Osina, dépendance du district de Nevrocop; en outre que deux autres filles de Batak, nommées Zlata et Gena, se trouvent cachées dans le village susdit ou dans la ville même de Nevrocop.

Je n'ai pas besoin de vous faire savoir le haut degré d'importance que notre Souverain attache à cette question. Vous de votre côté vous devez employer tous vos efforts, par des moyens confidentiels même, s'il le faut, pour découvrir ces filles, et charger des hommes de confiance pour les conduire convenablement un moment plus tôt à Philippopolis et les remettre à la Commission Impériale qui y siége pour ces affaires.

Je m'occupe ici à apprendre si dans votre circonscription il existe, oui ou non, d'autres enfants Bulgares; et, tout en me réservant de vous en prévenir télégraphiquement du résultat de mes recherches, je vous invite instamment de vouloir faire des investigations minutieuses dans le même but, et d'expédier à Philippopolis tous ceux que vous réussirez à découvrir et de m'en informer.

En outre si parmi ces garçons et filles Bulgares il y aurait quelques uns qui volontairement même exprimeraient le désir de devenir Musulmans vous aurez soin de ne pas donner suite a ce désir sans une autorisation spéciale de ma part.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, October* 30, 1876.

It has been brought to my knowledge that two Bulgarian girls, the one called Stephana Neshof, and the other Ivana, who were carried off from the village of Batak, are at the present moment in the house of the sons of a certain Mehmet Agha, of the village of Isina or Osina, a dependancy of the district of Nevrokop; that, moreover, there are other girls from Batak, named Zlata and Gena, concealed in the above-mentioned village, if not in the town of Nevrokop itself.

There is no need for me to inform you of the high degree of importance which our Sovereign attaches to this question. You on your part are to use your utmost endeavours, even by confidential means, if necessary, to discover these girls, and you will give them into the charge of trustworthy men to conduct them suitably, with as little delay as possible, to Philippopolis and hand them over to the Imperial Commission which sits there to consider these matters.

I am engaged here with inquiring whether in your district there are any other Bulgarian children, and although I intend to let you know by telegram the result of my researches, I earnestly beg you to make the most minute investigations on the same subject, and to send to Philippopolis all those whom you succeed in discovering, and to inform me thereof.

Besides which, if amongst the Bulgarian boys and girls there happen to be some who even of their own free will should express a wish of becoming Mussulman, please be careful not to give effect to their wishes without special authorization on my part.

No. 928.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12.)

My Lord, *Athens, November* 4, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a clever article, and having also the merit of being a short one, which was published in the last number of the "Messager d'Athènes," complaining that after the Cretan insurrection Russia had obtained concessions from the Porte in favour of Servia and Montenegro, as well as for the Bulgarians, on the ground that their pacific attitude had enabled Europe to localise that insurrection, whilst the similar pacific attitude of Greece and of the Greek

populations of Turkey, during the present war, is laid to the charge of the Greeks, and assigned as a reason for denying to them any share whatever in the fresh privileges and concesssions which are claimed for the Slav Principalities and populations.

The Greeks in this country naturally enough believe their own kinsmen in the Turkish provinces to be more civilized and intelligent and more deserving of sympathy than the Slavs, and further, that it is the interest of Europe to protect Hellenism as a barrier against the ambition and encroachments of Slavism. It has, therefore, been a bitter disappointment to them to find that the interest of all the Great Powers, and the sympathy of public opinion throughout Europe, seem to have been almost exclusively concentrated upon the Slavs who have taken part in the war, and that unless the Greeks become again a source of trouble and anxiety to the Porte and to Europe, their claims to be placed upon the same footing as the more favoured Slav populations are likely to be ignored.

It is also feared here that Hellenic interests will further suffer if, during the approaching negotiations, Russia succeeds in procuring the recognition of the province of Bulgaria as including large portions of territory on the south side of the Balkans, which have hitherto belonged to Macedonia and Thrace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure in No. 928.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes."

Athènes, le $\frac{16}{28}$ *Octobre*, 1876.

UN des arguments de la diplomatie Russe pour exclure les Hellènes de Turquie de toute combinaison tendant à l'amélioration du sort des Chrétiens, c'est leur inaction dans la crise actuelle de l'Orient. La Russie officielle trouverait ainsi moyen de châtier les Grecs d'avoir rendu possible la localisation de la guerre et le maintien de la paix en résistant aux pressantes solicitations des Comités Panslavistes, de semer les germes d'une guerre prochaine que la Grèce se verrait dans la nécessité d'entreprendre pour la défense des droits des Hellènes menacés à la fois par les Turcs et par les Slaves.

L'Europe se flatterait en vain de rétablir la paix si elle s'avisait de placer les Grecs dans une situation inférieure aux Bulgares et aux Musulmans. Quoiqu'il puisse lui en coûter, la Grèce ne souffrira pas une diminution des droits de l'Hellénisme au profit des autres nationalités de l'Orient. Les demi-mesures proposées par Lord Derby, et que la Russie ne semble pas éloignée d'accepter aujourd'hui, ouvriraient donc un vaste champ à de nouvelles et redoutables complications.

Il n'y a pas dix ans, la presse Russe, qui garde aujourd'hui sur les Grecs le même silence significatif que le Cabinet de Pétersbourg, prétendait que tous les Chrétiens d'Orient, soulevés ou non contre les Turcs, avaient les mêmes droits à la bienveillante sollicitude des Puissances. Lorsque l'opinion publique de l'Europe, émue par l'héroïsme et l'abnégation patriotique des Crétois se faisant sauter plutôt que de se rendre aux Turcs, demandait l'annexion de Candie à la Grèce, la presse Russe, écho fidèle des sentiments du Prince Gortchakow, exigeait les mêmes avantages pour les Slaves dont "l'attitude pacifique avait permis à l'Europe de localiser l'incendie." Le Cabinet de Pétersbourg était dans les mêmes intentions. Le Prince Gortchakow négocia si adroitement, fit si bien comprendre aux Puissances que la conduite des Slaves méritait d'être récompensée, que la Porte consentit à évacuer Belgrade et à démolir les blockhauss qui tenaient en respect les Monténégrins. De leur côté, les Bulgares, qui avaient proposé de marcher contre les Grecs, chose peu Chrétienne assurément, furent, en attendant mieux, émancipés de l'Eglise Œcuménique de Constantinople. Cependant ni les Serbes, ni les Monténégrins, ni les Bulgares n'avaient pris les armes contre la Turquie; c'est même à leur abstention qu'ils durent d'obtenir les avantages que nous venons de signaler. A vrai dire l'insurrection Crétoise ne profita qu'aux Slaves, que, sur les instances de la Russie, l'Europe récompensa d'avoir gardé la neutralité dans le différend Turco-Hellénique.

Rien ne nous semble donc plus facile que la réfutation des arguments de la diplomatie Russe. On pourrait même, au besoin, rappeler la circulaire du Prince Gortchakow pour combattre la proposition de Napoléon III qui avait conseillé à la Porte la cession de Candie à la Grèce. L'homme d'Etat, qui, pour les mauvaises

raisons que l'on sait, s'oppose aujourd'hui à l'amélioration du sort des Grecs, trouvait alors souverainement injuste de favoriser l'élément Hellène et de négliger les Slaves, ces fidèles sujets du Sultan ne lui ayant donné aucun motif de plainte! Tout homme de bonne foi se demandera peut-être en voyant des principes contraires, opposés, soutenus, à dix ans d'intervalle, par la même nation et par le même Ministre, si les protestations de désintéressement de la Russie, ses démonstrations en faveur des Chrétiens d'Orient peuvent être prises au sérieux.

(Translation.)

Athens, October $\frac{16}{28}$, 1876.

ONE of the arguments of Russian diplomacy with a view of excluding the Greeks in Turkey from every plan, having for its object the bettering of the condition of the Christians, is their inaction during the present crisis in the East.

Official Russia would find by these means a way of chastising the Greeks for having made the localization of war and the maintenance of peace a possibility, by resisting the pressing solicitations of the Panslavist Committees, and of sowing the seeds of a future war, which Greece would find herself under the necessity of undertaking to defend the rights of the Greeks, which are menaced at once by Turkey and the Slavs.

Europe would be deceived in the hope of re-establishing peace should she be so ill-advised as to place the Greeks in a situation inferior to that of the Bulgarians and Mussulmans. Cost what it may, Greece would not allow a diminution of Hellenic rights, to the profit of the other nationalities of the East. The half-measures now proposed by Lord Derby, and which Russia seems almost ready to accept at the present moment, would open out a vast field for new and formidable complications.

Hardly ten years ago the Russian press, which at the present time keeps the same significant silence about the Greeks as the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh, pretended that all the Eastern Christians, whether opposed to the Turks or not, had the same rights to the friendly interest of the Powers. When the public opinion of Europe, moved by the heroism and patriotic abnegation of the Cretans in submitting to anything rather than give way to the Turks, asked for the annexation of Candia to Greece, the Russian press, a faithful echo of the feelings of Prince Gortchakow, claimed the same advantages for the Slavs, whose "pacific attitude had allowed Europe to localize the conflagration." The Cabinet of St. Petersburgh had the same intentions. Prince Gortchakow negotiated so adroitly, so convinced the Powers that the conduct of the Slavs ought to be rewarded, that the Porte consented to evacuate Belgrade and to destroy the blockhouses which held the Montenegrins in check. On their side, the Bulgarians, who had proposed to march against the Greeks, a most unchristian intention surely, as a foretaste of something better, were released from the Œcumenical Church at Constantinople. Nevertheless, neither the Serbs, nor the Montenegrins, nor the Bulgarians had taken up arms against Turkey; it is even to their holding aloof that they owed the advantages which we have just enumerated. In truth the Cretan insurrection only resulted in advantages to the Slavs, whom, at the instance of Russia, Europe rewarded for having observed a strict neutrality in the Turco-Hellenic difference.

Thus nothing seems easier to us than the refutation of the arguments of Russian diplomacy. It would even be possible at need, to recall the Circular of Prince Gortchakow opposing the propositions of Napoleon III, who had advised the Porte to give up Candia to Greece. That statesman, who, for the bad reasons now known, opposes himself at the present time to the amelioration of the lot of Greece, then found it supremely unjust to favour the Hellenic element, and to neglect the Slavs, these faithful subjects of the Sultan having given him no motive for complaint! Every right-minded man will perhaps ask himself on seeing the same nation and the same Minister support such contrary and opposed principles within a period of ten years, whether the protestations of disinterestedness on the part of Russia or her demonstrations in favour of the Eastern Christians, are to be taken seriously.

No. 929.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 12.)

My Lord, *Paris, November* 11, 1876.

THIS morning, in obedience to the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I communicated to the Duc Decazes your Lordship's despatch to Lord Augustus Loftus of the 30th ultimo on the Eastern Question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 930.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 12, 1876, 12·20 P.M.

FOLLOWING speech of the Emperor at Moscow appeared in this morning's official paper:—

"Je vous remercie, Messieurs, des sentiments que vous avez voulu m'exprimer dans les circonstances politiques actuelles. La situation est aujourd'hui plus claire et je suis prêt maintenant à accepter votre adresse avec satisfaction. Vous savez que la Turquie a consenti à la conclusion immédiate d'un armistice que j'ai exigé pour mettre fin à une effusion de sang inutile en Serbie et au Monténégro. Dans cette lutte inégale, les Monténégrins se sont montrés comme toujours de véritables héros; malheureusement on ne peut accorder les mêmes éloges aux Serbes, malgré la présence dans leurs rangs de nos volontaires, dont beaucoup ont versé leur sang pour la cause Slave. Je sais que la Russie entière avec moi prend la part la plus vive aux souffrances de nos frères de religion et de race; mais pour moi les véritables intérêts de la Russie sont les plus chers de tous et je désirerais éviter jusqu'à la dernière extrémité l'effusion du précieux sang Russe. Voilà pourquoi je poursuis mes efforts pour atteindre par des moyens pacifiques une amélioration effective du sort de toutes les populations Chrétiennes de la Péninsule des Balkans. Des Conférences doivent s'ouvrir ces jours-ci à Constantinople entre les Représentants des six Grandes Puissances pour la détermination des conditions de la paix. Je désire beaucoup que nous puissions arriver à une entente générale, mais si cet accord n'a pas lieu, et si je vois que nous n'obtenons pas des garanties réelles de l'exécution de ce que nous sommes en droit d'exiger de la Porte, j'ai la ferme intention d'agir seul, et je suis certain que dans ce cas la Russie entière répondra à mon appel, lorsque je le jugerai nécessaire et que l'honneur du pays l'exigera. Je suis convaincu également que comme toujours Moscow donnera alors l'exemple. Que Dieu nous aide à remplir notre sainte mission!"

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 12, 1876, 12·20 P.M.

I THANK you, gentlemen, for the sentiments which you have been pleased to express to me in the present state of politics. The situation is now less complicated, and I am now ready to accept your address with satisfaction. You know that Turkey has consented to the immediate conclusion of the armistice which I have exacted, in order to put an end to the useless loss of life in Servia and Montenegro. In this unequal contest, the Montenegrins have shown themselves true heroes, as they always have done; unhappily, it is impossible to give the same praise to the Serbs, notwithstanding the presence of our volunteers in their ranks, of whom many have shed their blood for the cause of the Slavs. I know that all Russia takes the greatest interest with me in the sufferings of onr brothers and co-religionists; but for my part, the true interests of Russia are the dearest of all, and I should wish to avoid the effusion of precious Russian blood as long as possible. Hence, the reason why I continue to endeavour to attain by pacific means, an effective amelioration in the lot of all the Christian populations of the Peninsular of the Balkans. Conferences are to begin before long at Constantinople between the Representatives of the six Great Powers, for the settlement of the conditions of peace.

I have great hopes that we shall come to a general understanding, but if this agreement is not brought about, and if I see that we do not obtain *bonâ fide* guarantees for the execution of that which we have a right to demand from the Porte, I am firmly determined to act alone, and I am sure that in this case, the whole of Russia will answer to my call when I shall judge it necessary, and when the honour of the country requires it.

I am equally convinced that Moscow will set the example, as it always has done before. May God help us to fulfil our sacred mission!

No. 931.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 12, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 12, 1876, 12·20 P.M.

HAVING heard that the Russian flag used to be hoisted over Tchernaieff's head-quarters, I telegraphed to Sir A. Kemball for information and have received the following answer from him:—

"Two Russian flags over two small dark flags, supposed to be Servian, one each side of the gateway of Tchernaieff's head-quarters, Deligrad, witnessed by surgeons of the Red Cross accompanying Colonel Lindsay and by us with telescope from extreme right of the old Turkish position; but last Wednesday both staffs were bare. Russian flag on a church-steeple at Alexinatz pulled down and Turkish flag substituted. Ball and cross uninjured."

No. 932.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, November* 3, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Prince of Servia returned to Belgrade last night.

Before leaving Paratchin, the head-quarters of the Servian army, His Highness received a telegram direct from the Russian Ambassador dated Buyukdere, the 1st instant at 3·50 P.M., conveying intelligence of the acceptance of an armistice of two months from the 1st instant by the Porte.

Similar information was received by me from Sir Henry Elliot.

It would appear, therefore, that while negotiations were progressing favourably towards the conclusion of an armistice which the Porte was willing to grant, and Servia to accept, different terms were agreed to suddenly at Constantinople under Russian dictation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 933.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 7, 1876.

THE conclusion of the armistice between the Porte and Servia has not caused the Russian Government to relax the preparations which are being actively carried on for war.

100,000*l.* sterling were paid last week by the Russian Government in part-payment for the 8,000 tons of lead which I mentioned in a telegram to your Lordship of the 1st instant, as just purchased by the Government. It is to be brought into the country through the port of Revel.

800,000 pairs of boots for the army have been ordered.

But if such proofs were wanting to show that Russia has determined to make war against Turkey, the hostile tone of the press, the disappointment felt by a large section of society at the conclusion of the armistice, and the desire for war evinced by a great portion of the army, give grounds for this belief, unless Russia succeeds in obtaining at the proposed Conference the fulfilment of her own views with regard to the future of the revolted provinces of Turkey.

The more prudent and less enthusiastic among the well-educated class view the warlike tendency with great distrust, persuaded, as they are, that a war must be most disastrous to Russia, knowing the state of her finances and how really unprepared and unfit the country is to commence a conflict.

I am informed that the Government contemplates carrying into execution forced payments in gold of the revenue levied by the Excise, which would amount to about 7,000,000*l.* sterling per annum, and the Custom-house will be authorized to accept in payment of duties the coupons of the foreign loans; these measures, it is expected, will be put in force in January next.

Another scheme for procuring funds is a fresh issue of paper roubles. Should this plan be carried out it is believed that it will occasion a great number of false notes to be introduced into the circulation, which would give rise to the most indescribable chaos in mercantile transactions. The notes are said to be easily counterfeited, and the Treasury officers themselves could hardly distinguish between the legal and false notes.

Nevertheless, although active preparations are in progress for a campaign, it is not believed that Russia will take the field before spring.

The officers charged to report especially on the means of leading troops from Kischenew into the Turkish or Danubian provinces stated that, at this season, such an attempt would cost the lives of half the troops engaged.

No. 934.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13.)

My Lord, *Rome, November* 7, 1876.

ON the receipt the day before yesterday of your Lordship's telegram of the 4th instant, I immediately addressed a note to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, of which I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy, embodying the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference to be held at Constantinople, and I yesterday afternoon waited upon Signor Melegari in order to ascertain his Excellency's views upon this subject.

After some conversation, in the course of which his Excellency said that he entirely approved the bases upon which Her Majesty's Government proposed that the discussions should be conducted, but that he should have preferred any other city to Constantinople as the place of meeting of the Conference, and that he felt some doubts as to sending a special Plenipotentiary to attend it, his Excellency authorized me to telegraph to your Lordship that the Italian Government accepts in principle the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to hold a Conference at Constantinople, promising to send to me to-day an official answer in writing to the note in which I had made to him the communication.

I asked his Excellency if he would wish me to mention in the telegram what he had stated in regard to preferring some other place for meeting of the Conference, and his hesitation as to sending a special Plenipotentiary, but he said that it would be sufficient if I stated his agreement in principle to the proposed Conference for that perhaps he should not allude to the topics just mentioned in his official note. It would depend upon the opinion of the Cabinet, to whom, of course, he must submit the proposal of Her Majesty's Government before replying to it formally in writing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 934.

Sir A. Paget to M. Melegari.

M. le Ministre, *Rome, November* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have determined to take the initiative of proposing that a Conference should forthwith be held at Constantinople, in which all the Guaranteeing Powers and the Porte shall take part.

Her Majesty's Government would suggest that each Government should have two Representatives, and in making this communication to His Italian Majesty's Government, I have been instructed to propose, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, that the following bases should be adopted for the deliberations of the Conference:—

1. The independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

2. A declaration that the Powers do not seek for territorial advantages, exclusive influence, or commercial concessions as recorded in the Protocol signed in London on the 17th September, 1840, between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey, and in the Protocol signed in Paris on 3rd August, 1860, between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey.

3. The terms of pacification proposed by Sir H. Elliot to the Porte, as made known to your Excellency by Mr. Malet in a Memorandum on the 23rd September.

I am instructed to add that should the powers agree to this proposal, Her Majesty's Government will at once appoint a special Ambassador to proceed to Constantinople to take part in the Conference, and, if so desired by the other Powers, Her Majesty's Government would not object to their two Plenipotentiaries joining in preliminary discussions with the Plenipotentiaries of the other five Powers, before the opening of the Conference, on the understanding, of course, that these discussions will be on the same bases as those proposed for the Conference.

In requesting your Excellency to have the goodness to inform me as soon as possible if the Government of His Italian Majesty accepts the proposal now made to them by Her Majesty's Government, I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 935.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13.)

My Lord, *Rome, November* 8, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith translation of a note addressed to me by Signor Melegari, Minister for Foreign Affairs, in answer to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference to be held at Constantinople, which I communicated to his Excellency in my note of the 5th instant.

In this note Signor Melegari, after thanking your Lordship for the invitation, states that Her Majesty's Government being aware that the Italian Government considers that the preservation of peace is more important than anything else, cannot doubt that any proposition tending towards agreement will be favourably received by Italy.

His Excellency records his opinion that the work of the Conference as well as of the preparatory discussions might have been facilitated by the choice of a place of meeting other than Constantinople, and also that the sending of a second Plenipotentiary should be optional. Yet being unwilling to do aught to retard matters, he does not hesitate to declare that Italy will be represented in the Conference in which all the other Guaranteeing Powers shall have agreed to take part.

His Excellency concludes by saying that the bases proposed in the month of September to Turkey having been supported by the unanimous opinion of the Guaranteeing Powers, seem fit to be adopted as the programme of the future deliberations, and he adds that the Italian Government, recognizing the great importance of the other two points laid down by your Lordship, is ready to accept them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 935.

M. Melegari to Sir A. Paget.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Rome, November* 7, 1876.

IN a note of the 5th instant, your Excellency invited me, in the name of your Government, to inform you, as quickly as possible, if Italy accepted the proposition for a Conference at Constantinople, of which England has decided to take the initiative, in which all the Guaranteeing Powers, as well as the Porte, should take part, this Conference, provided other Powers wished it, should be preceded by preliminary discussions between the Plenipotentiaries of only the six Guaranteeing Powers, and these preliminary discussions, as well as the Conference which should follow, would leave the programme which, in your Excellency's note, is summed up in the three following points:—

1. Independence and integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

2. Declarations on the part of the Powers that they do not seek for territorial advantages, exclusive influence, or commercial concessions, as recorded in the Protocol signed in London on the 17th December, 1840, and in Paris on the 3rd of August, 1860.

3. The conditions of pacification proposed by Sir Henry Elliot to the Sublime Porte, and communicated to the King's Government by your Embassy in September last.

Your Excellency has, at the same time, informed me that the Cabinet of London proposes that each Government should have two Plenipotentiaries in the Conference, and that a Special Ambassador would be appointed by England to proceed to Constantinople for this purpose.

I must, in the first place, beg your Excellency to convey to Lord Derby my most sincere thanks for the important communication in question. Her Britannic Majesty's Government being aware that the King's Government considers the common interest of the preservation of peace more important than anything else, cannot doubt that we shall receive favourably any proposition tending to this end through the agreement of the six Guaranteeing Powers. Although, in my opinion, the work of an international Conference, as well as that to be accomplished in the preparatory discussions, might have been facilitated by the choice of another place for meeting, and although I am also of opinion that, sending a second Plenipotentiary to Constantinople should be optional for each Government; yet, not wishing, by putting forward objections, to retard the benefits which all are expecting from the pacification of the Turkish Provinces and the Principalities of Servia and Montenegro, I do not hesitate to declare to your Excellency that Italy will be represented in the Conference in which all the other Guaranteeing Powers shall have agreed to take part.

The bases proposed in the month of September to Turkey having been supported by the unanimous opinion of the Guaranteeing Powers, seem to us fit to be adopted as the programme of the future deliberations of the same Powers, and also respecting the other two points laid down in your Excellency's note, I wish Her Britannic Majesty's Government to know that Italy, recognizing their great importance, is ready to accept them.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) MELEGARI.

No. 936.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13.)

My Lord, *Rome, November* 9, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt yesterday evening of your Lordship's telegram announcing that the Queen has been pleased to appoint the Right Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to be Her Majesty's Special Ambassador to attend the proposed Conference at Constantinople jointly with Sir Henry Elliot, and to inform your Lordship that I immediately conveyed this information in a note to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 937.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13.)

My Lord, *Berlin, November* 8, 1876.

THE Turkish Ambassador presented his credentials to the German Emperor on the 6th instant, for the third time, since his appointment to Berlin.

In consequence, the German Ambassador, Baron Werther, at Constantinople, was instructed to delay no longer the presentation of his letters to the new Sultan, and has probably done so already by now.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 938.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

My Lord, *Berlin, November* 10, 1876.

THE German Government, who have accepted the proposed Conference in principle, are only waiting till the other Powers have adhered, to declare their own adherence officially.

The Emperor, it appears, is not inclined to appoint a second Plenipotentiary with the rank of Ambassador, and wishes that Baron Werther, His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, should act as sole Representative of Germany at the preliminary discussions, and at the Conference when it meets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 939.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

My Lord, *Berlin, November* 10, 1876.

THE German Government have appointed Lieutenant-Colonels Mantai and Serbeck, to take part in the military Commission for the demarcation of the armistice.

They will leave Berlin on Sunday next, and proceed to Widdin and Ragusa without loss of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 940.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

My Lord, *Paris, November* 12, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes informed me this morning that the French Government had determined that the Comte de Chaudordy, the French Ambassador at the Court of Madrid, should be appointed Special Ambassador to represent France, in conjunction with the Comte de Bourgoing, the French Ambassador to the Porte, in the Conference at Constantinople.

M. de Bourgoing arrived at Paris yesterday from Constantinople, and M. de Chaudordy is also here.

The Duc Decazes said that he had already requested the Minister of Marine to have a ship of war ready to convey them to Constantinople. He added that he was preparing the instructions for them, and that they would be ready to set out at once, whenever the proper moment should seem to have arrived. He added that he thought it would be well that they should start about the same time as Lord Salisbury.

The Duc Decazes expressed a hope that Lord Salisbury would pass through Paris, and a strong desire to have some conversation with him. He also said that he should be very glad to have an opportunity of presenting M. de Chaudordy and M. de Bourgoing to his Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 941.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

My Lord, *Paris, November* 12, 1876.

THIS morning, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 9th instant, I conveyed to the Duc Decazes the thanks of your Lordship for his promptitude in communicating with Her Majesty's Government

respecting the proposed Conference at Constantinople, and in informing them that he had summoned the Comte de Bourgoing, the French Ambassador at Constantinople, to come to Paris to receive instructions.

I added that the views of Her Majesty's Government were fully stated in the proposals respecting the Conference which I had made to him by your Lordship's order.

After expressing his acknowledgments for your Lordship's message, the Duc said that he was very desirous of knowing a little more precisely the meaning attached by Her Majesty's Government to the word "autonomy."

I answered that the sense in which the word was used by Her Majesty's Government was explained in the conditions of peace which had been suggested by them in September, and which were to form the bases of the Conference. I proceeded to recite to the Duke the explanation in the following terms:—

"A system of local or administrative autonomy, by which is to be understood a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State."

The Duke said that he remembered that these were the terms stated in the letter in which I had communicated the conditions to him in September, but that it would still be useful to him in preparing his instructions for M. de Chaudordy and M. de Bourgoing to have some fuller explanation.

It had, he said, occurred to him that the larger the amount of self-government granted to the people, the less necessity there would be for requiring guarantees from the Porte, and for the exercise of superintendence by the Guaranteeing Powers. In fact, the responsibility both of the Powers and of the Porte would be small, if the people had so large a control over the administration of their affairs as to make their happiness and prosperity mainly dependent upon themselves.

On the other hand, the Powers were, the Duke said, pledged to introduce certain reforms, and to insure the execution of them. It was by no means certain that by leaving the provinces simply to administer themselves, any real improvement in their condition would be effected. It could hardly be hoped that in cases where a Christian or a Mussulman population predominated in districts, the majority would not oppress the minority. There appeared, in fact, to be no means of escaping altogether from the difficult question of taking security for the execution of reforms.

It had, the Duke told me, occurred to him that the institution of a sort of Tribunal at Constantinople, a sort of "Cour d'Abus," to which appeals might be made from the provinces, would best reconcile the dignity and independence of the Porte with the necessary superintendence on the part of the Powers. The Six Powers might be represented in the Tribunal by Judges nominated in something the same way as those of the Mixed Tribunals in Egypt. The Tribunal might send Commissions of its members to investigate complaints, or might even establish regular circuits at fixed intervals.

The Duke had not worked out the idea in detail; but it appeared to me that it might contain the germ of a very useful institution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 942.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13, 12·30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 13, 1876, 10·45 A.M.

PORTE has again delayed answering invitation to Conference till a further Report has been received from Musurus Pasha of a communication which he says he expects from your Lordship.

I have protested strongly against the delay.

No. 943.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 13, 1876, 10·50 A.M.*

GRAND VIZIER has expressed to me his earnest desire that Her Majesty's Government would make known to the Porte the measures which it is expected to grant for the administration of Provinces. He says that if the Porte was aware of what the Powers require, it would very likely be able to grant everything, and make it unnecessary to have a Conference, which is greatly dreaded.

No. 944.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 13 Novembre, 1876.

My Lord,

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de la lettre que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date d'hier au sujet de la Conférence proposée, et d'informer votre Excellence que je me suis empressé d'en transmettre par télégraphe la teneur à son Excellence Safvet Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *Imperial Ottoman Embassy, London, November 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of yesterday's date on the subject of the proposed Conference, and I lose no time in informing you that I have telegraphed the substance of it to His Excellency Safvet Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MUSURUS.

No. 945.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 13, 1876, 5·25 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of 13th instant, Her Majesty's Government have explained to Musurus Pasha that they cannot concur in the objections advanced by the Porte, that other Powers would not do so either, and that as concert among the Powers is imperative and essential to pacification, Her Majesty's Government trust that the Porte will not refuse to join in the Conference.

Musurus Pasha has stated that he has telegraphed answer of Her Majesty's Government to Safvet Pasha.

No. 946.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 13, 1876.*

IN my despatch of the 26th September I have already instructed your Excellency to support the representations of the French Ambassador as to the necessity of precautions being taken to keep the Turkish irregular troops under proper control on their return from the seat of war.

Now that an armistice is in course of settlement I should wish your Excellency again to call the attention of the Porte to this matter. It is of great importance that the Turkish volunteers, reserves, and other auxiliary troops, should be sent to their homes or winter quarters as military bodies, under the command of responsible officers, and subject to proper discipline, and that they should not be merely dismissed

at the front and left to find their own way home. In the latter case it is scarcely possible that numerous acts of plunder and violence should not be committed in the countries through which the disbanded soldiery pass.

Your Excellency will impress this matter upon the Turkish Ministers as one requiring their serious attention, and will desire the British officers on the spot to do what is in their power to ensure the full observance by the Turkish Commanders of the orders which they receive on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 947.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1876.

YOUR Excellency stated, in your telegram of the 6th instant, that Herr von Bülow, on your communicating to him the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference, had informed you that he had submitted them to the Emperor and Prince Bismarck, and that he would instruct the German Ambassador at Constantinople to attend the preliminary discussions.

In your despatch of the 16th instant you reported that the German Government had accepted the proposed Conference in principle, and were waiting till the other Powers had adhered to declare their own adherence officially.

As the other Powers have assented, it was to be expected that Germany would now have been in a position to give her official answer; but Count Münster has informed me to-day that he has no instructions on the subject: and it not being clear, from the statement that the Conference is accepted in principle, whether it is to be inferred that the British proposal is accepted as it stands, I should wish your Excellency to inform me whether Her Majesty's Government are to understand that the German Government have accepted the Conference on the bases proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 948.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 13, 1876, 3·45 P.M.

A TELEGRAM was sent to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople yesterday by Count Andrassy, informing him that Austria-Hungary has accepted the English programme for the Conference, and instructing him to avoid preliminary discussion till arrival of all the Representatives.

The second Plenipotentiary has not yet been named.

No. 949.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 13, 1876, 4 P.M.

THE port of Klek has not been opened as alleged by the press, but permission has been given for the entrance of Turkish vessels to remove the sick and wounded, on condition that they do not introduce fresh troops, arms, or munitions of war.

No. 950.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(Extract.) *Yalta, October 29, 1876.*

IN conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's telegram of the 22nd instant, I left St. Petersburgh on the evening of the 23rd instant, and arrived here on Friday the 27th, accompanied by Mr. Egerton, Second Secretary to Her Majesty's Embassy.

I had an interview with Prince Gortchakow to-day at Orianda, a palace belonging to the Grand Duke Constantine, at a short distance from Livadia. His Highness received me very cordially, and, after some friendly remarks, the conversation turned to the present aspect of the Eastern question.

Prince Gortchakow stated that the state of affairs was very grave. He hoped that the question of the armistice was arranged, the Porte, on the advice of Sir Henry Elliot, having yielded to the considerations which the Imperial Government had advanced in favour of the shorter term.

I here explained to his Highness that Her Majesty's Government had asked for an armistice of not less than one month, that the Imperial Government having on a previous occasion expressed a wish for a longer period, they naturally supposed that the proposal of the Porte would not meet with any objections on their part, and that consequently Her Majesty's Government had expressed their approval of the terms offered by the Porte.

On the other hand, Her Majesty's Government, I said, had no objection to the term of six weeks or two months, if proposed by the Porte; but they were not able to take the initiative of a fresh proposal after having expressed their approval of the original term of five months offered by the Porte.

His Highness here stated that General Ignatiew had been instructed to be yielding and conciliatory on the question of the armistice.

It is evident to me that Prince Gortchakow does not wish to make the question of the armistice the ground for a rupture with the Porte, and that he looks to the question of the "autonomy of the three Provinces" as being the important deciding point of peace or war.

Prince Gortchakow expressed his anxious wish that on the arrangement of the armistice no time should be lost in organizing a Conference.

His Highness then stated that Russia must "insist" on obtaining such reforms in regard to the status of the Christians in the three provinces, as would prove to be "real" ("réelles") and not mere "phrases," and that a "control" or "guarantee" must be given by the Porte for their due execution.

Prince Gortchakow informed me that General Ignatiew had had a private audience of the Sultan, subsequent to presenting his letters of credence. General Ignatiew spoke in favourable terms of the Sultan, who had expressed his readiness to meet the wishes of the Emperor Alexander as far as he was enabled to do so, and His Majesty had further stated to General Ignatiew his anxiety to be delivered from the serious embarrassments which threatened his Empire on all sides; but, from what the Prince said, it would appear that the Sultan and his Government are under the continual fear of popular excitement and religious fanaticism, which paralyzes their action, and that the dangers from within exceed, in their opinion, the dangers from without.

Prince Gortchakow considered the present state of things at Constantinople as extremely dangerous, and even as menacing to the Christian population, and he hinted that the Sultan might be obliged to have recourse to foreign support against the fanaticism of his own subjects.

I inquired from His Highness what course Austria was likely to take in regard to the question of "autonomy" for the three provinces. He merely observed that the two Governments were in frank communication in regard to their mutual interests, adding, "laissez nous nous entendre avec l'Autriche sur cette question."

No. 951.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord, *Yalta, November* 1, 1876.

I RECEIVED a note yesterday evening from Prince Gortchakow, to inform me that the Emperor was unable to receive me to-day, in consequence of its being the anniversary of the death of the late Empress.

I met Prince Gortchakow yesterday, and inquired whether his Highness had received any satisfactory intelligence from Constantinople. His Highness replied that he had intelligence to communicate, but he preferred that the Emperor should communicate it to me at my audience, which was then fixed for to-day. I received later from St. Petersburgh the official declaration published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," announcing that General Ignatiew had been instructed to declare to the Sublime Porte that, if within a delay of two days it did not accept an armistice of six weeks or two months, and if it did not give immediate orders to arrest military operations, the Ambassador would leave Constantinople with all the members of the Embassy, and that diplomatic relations would be broken off.

I then understood that this was the intelligence which Prince Gortchakow preferred should be communicated to me directly by the Emperor.

General Schweinitz, the German Ambassador, arrived here last night direct from Berlin. He informs me that the official answer of the Porte to the Russian ultimatum is expected to-morrow, and he stated that hopes were entertained that the armistice would be granted by the Porte if it should not be opposed by Sir Henry Elliot.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 952.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(Extract.) *Yalta, November* 2, 1876.

I HAD an audience of the Emperor of Russia to-day at Livadia, when His Majesty was pleased to receive me with his customary kindness and cordiality. After some gracious inquiries after my family, His Majesty at once opened on the Eastern question.

His Majesty stated that he had that morning received a telegram from Constantinople, announcing the probable acceptance of the armistice, and he read to me another telegram reporting that orders had been already sent by the Porte to their Commanders to suspend military operations. This, His Majesty observed, was very satisfactory.

On my observing on the sudden change which had taken place between the Sunday when I had seen the Chancellor and the following day, when the ultimatum was dispatched to General Ignatiew, His Majesty said that this had been caused by the intelligence he had received of the complete discomfiture of the Servian army, and his fear that it might be followed by similar atrocities as those which had occurred in Bulgaria.

His Majesty had decided on addressing an ultimatum in order to prevent a further unnecessary effusion of blood, and he observed that no one was more astonished to receive this instruction than General Ignatiew himself.

His Majesty expressed very earnestly his wish that the Conference should meet with the least delay, and that instructions should be immediately sent by the several Governments to enable the Ambassadors at Constantinople to deliberate at once on the necessary preliminaries of peace, taking as the basis the proposals which had been submitted by your Lordship.

The Emperor then, with great calmness and lucidity, entered on a retrospective view of the past negotiations. He stated that he had given every proof of his desire for peace, and that he had done everything in his power to aid in arriving at a pacific solution of the existing complications.

He had supported your Lordship's previous demand for an armistice of six weeks, which was refused by the Porte, and was followed by a mere suspension of hostilities for ten days, which proved wholly illusory. His Majesty considered that this refusal

of the Porte to a collective appeal of Europe was a "soufflet" given to the Powers. He had patiently submitted from a wish not to separate from the European concert.

Your Lordship then submitted the proposals to serve as a basis for peace. To these, also, His Majesty had assented, and they were equally agreed to by the other Powers.

To these proposals the Porte had replied evasively, declining to convey her acceptance in the form of a Protocol, and notifying that a wholesale measure of reform was under consideration, which would be applied indiscriminately to the Empire at large, and which even went beyond the demands of the Powers.

On this refusal, your Lordship had, simultaneously with a similar proposal from His Majesty's Government, addressed to the Porte a demand for an armistice of not less than a month, for the purpose of enabling the Powers to deliberate on the conditions of peace. His Majesty's Government had supported this demand in conjunction with the other Powers, and to this the Porte had replied by a counter-proposal, offering an armistice of five months, which, under the circumstances, and for the reasons given by his Government, could not be supported or recommended to the belligerent parties.

Thus, said His Majesty, the Porte, by a series of manœuvres, had rendered ineffectual all the attempts of collective Europe for arresting the war and for securing a general pacification.

His Majesty then said that if Europe was willing to receive these repeated rebuffs from the Porte, he could no longer consider it as consistent either with the honour, the dignity, or the interests of Russia.

He was anxious not to separate from the European concert, but the present state of things was intolerable and could no longer be allowed to continue, and unless Europe was prepared to act with firmness and energy, he should be obliged to act alone.

His Majesty then referred more especially to his relations with England. He said he regretted to see that there still existed in England an "inveterate" suspicion of Russian policy, and a continual fear of Russian aggression and conquest. He had on several occasions given the most solemn assurances that he desired no conquest; that he aimed at no aggrandisement, and that he had not the smallest wish or intention to be possessed of Constantinople. All that had been said or written about a will of Peter the Great and the aims of Catherine the Second were illusions and phantoms; they never existed in reality, and he considered that the acquisition of Constantinople would be a misfortune for Russia. There was no question of it, nor had it ever been entertained by his late father, who had given a proof of it in 1828, when his victorious army was within four days' march of the Turkish capital.

His Majesty pledged his sacred word of honour in the most earnest and solemn manner that he had no intention of acquiring Constantinople, and that if necessity should oblige him to occupy a portion of Bulgaria, it would only be provisionally, and until peace and the safety of the Christian population were secured.

His Majesty here reverted to the proposal addressed to Her Majesty's Government for the occupation of Bosnia by Austria, of Bulgaria by Russia, and of a naval demonstration at Constantinople, where, he said, Her Majesty's fleet would have been the dominant Power. This, His Majesty thought, ought to be a sufficient proof that Russia entertained no intention of occupying that capital.

His Majesty could not understand, when both countries had a common object, namely, the maintenance of peace and the amelioration of the condition of the Christians—and when he had given every proof that he had no desire for conquest or aggrandizement, why there should not be a perfect understanding between England and Russia—an understanding based on a policy of peace, which would be equally beneficial to their mutual interests, and to those of Europe at large.

"Intentions," said His Majesty, "are attributed to Russia of a future conquest of India and of the possession of Constantinople. Can anything be more absurd? With regard to the former it is a perfect impossibility, and as regards the latter I repeat again the most solemn assurances that I entertain neither the wish nor the intention."

His Majesty deeply deplored the distrust of his policy which was manifested in England, and the evil effects it produced, and he earnestly requested me to do my utmost to dispel this cloud of suspicion and distrust of Russia, and charged me to convey to Her Majesty's Government the solemn assurances he had repeated to me.

I assured the Emperor that Her Majesty's Government were perfectly cognizant

This, he said, was the present state of public feeling in Russia. He likened it to the age of the Crusades, observing that the moment had come when the Slavonic race, amounting to 100,000,000, were determined to liberate their Christian brethren from the Mussulman yoke.

He then said that he hoped England would act in co-operation with Russia. There was every motive, political and otherwise, to engage her to do so, for her own interests and for those of Europe. England would then reap with Russia the gratitude of the Christian eastern races, and augment her influence with them. It was an opportunity which might not easily occur again, and, if once lost, would not be regained. Moreover he expressed a great anxiety that the present occasion should be profited of to establish a cordial understanding between the British and Russian nations. It would be the means of dispelling that mist of distrust which has so long disturbed the friendly feelings between the two countries for their mutual disadvantage. He feared that if England should now continue an antagonistic policy to Russia there would arise in this country an "Anglophobia" far surpassing what had hitherto been known in England under the name of "Russophobia."

He said he had written continually in this sense to his relations and friends in England; and he had done so from his love for England.

I have thought it my duty to report to your Lordship the foregoing opinion of an independent Russian nobleman, influenced by no other consideration than a love for his own country, and for England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 956.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 14.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 30, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 6th instant, instructing me to speak to Prince Nicholas upon the subject of the mutilations of Turkish soldiers left wounded on the battle-field of Medun; and desiring me to express to His Highness the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government in reference to these outrages on humanity.

I will take the first opportunity of conveying these sentiments to the knowledge of the Prince. In the meantime, however, I trust that it will be a satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government to know that these mutilations have already formed the subject of conversation between His Highness and myself; and that the Prince has assured me that their perpetration has caused him extreme distress, and has elicited from him the strongest expressions of displeasure, and the most peremptory orders to his soldiers to refrain from their commission.

From all that I have seen of the Prince I am convinced that it would not be easy to find a more humane nature, and that His Highness is not only alive to the discredit which these atrocities reflect upon the Montenegrin cause, but has a real disgust at such barbarous additions to the horrors of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 957.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 14.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, November* 2, 1876.

AT 9 o'clock this morning Prince Nicholas received direct from General Ignatiew a telegram announcing that the Porte had agreed to an unconditional armistice of two months.

Count Andrassy telegraphed this information yesterday to Colonel Thömmel, and M. Melegari did the same to M. Durando. M. Ceccaldi, the French Agent, has this evening received the announcement from the Duc Decazes.

The Prince sent immediate orders to all his Commanders in the field to suspend hostilities, and at 2 o'clock this afternoon all the Turkish prisoners here, except the officers, were told that they were at liberty, and were sent to Shablyah, at the head of

Lake of Scutari. These prisoners have, however, enjoyed the fullest liberty since they have been at Cettigné, thronging the streets of the town without let or hindrance, and fraternising with the Montenegrins in the most cordial manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 958.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(Extract.) *Cettigné. November* 4, 1876.

PRINCE NICHOLAS informed the Foreign Agents yesterday afternoon that, in spite of the armistice, Fort Spuz continued to fire upon the Montenegrin positions.

M. Yonine said that he had urgent instructions to report to General Ignatiew the minutest infraction of the armistice by the Turks.

MM. Ceccaldi and Durando having been appointed by the Duc Decazes and Signor Melegari to act on the part of France and Italy, in the necessary arrangements for the delimitation of the belligerent positions, agreed to telegraph at once to Turkish head-quarters in Albania and the Herzegovina, to request the Turkish commanders to enter at once into communication with the Montenegrin officers delegated by the Prince.

An Austrian staff officer is on his way hither from Trieste, to take part in these arrangements.

In the presence of my colleagues, the Prince expressed to me his surprise that I had not been to see him upon the subject of the armistice, as they had done. I explained to His Highness, that I had yet received no communication from your Lordship with regard to it; and I promised that as soon as I had anything to tell him I would not fail to ask for an audience.

No. 959.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, November* 4, 1876.

THE line separating the Montenegrin and Turkish positions during the armistice, as proposed by the Prince, passes from the frontier at Ragusa through Trebingé, Szaslap, Bilek, and Gatzko to Fotscha. These points are occupied by the Turks, but the line is broken at one place by a Montenegrin position at Korito, which His Highness will continue to hold.

The Prince also will not listen to any proposition respecting the provisioning of Nichsich by the Turks.

On the Albanian side the frontier will be the Montenegrin boundary line, the plain of the Moratscha remaining open. The district of Kutchi will, however, be considered as within the Montenegrin lines.

The demarcation thus proposed by the Prince is, therefore, the strict *status quo.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 960.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, November* 3, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that attempts have been made here to induce the Christians to sign a mazbata (declaration), expressing their content with the present *régime*, and protesting against any European intervention in the affairs of the province; but, as far as I can ascertain, this has proved a failure, as the Christians, though stating that they desire no change of nationality, said they could not conscientiously declare that they were content with their present circumstances.

Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman informs me that, "according to secret instructions sent

from Constantinople," the same attempt has been made in the Herzegovina, but had not succeeded.

If it be true, however, that this has been done by "instructions" from the Porte, I should not be at all surprised if the authorities managed to send to Constantinople some such document with plenty of Christian signatures, but no importance should be attached to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 961.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, November 3, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th ultimo, I have now the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch I have to-day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, regarding the statements made by Canon Liddon and Mr. McColl of the impalement of Christians in Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 961.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bosna Seraï, November 3, 1876.*

I HAD imagined that Canon Liddon and Mr. McColl would have been convinced, long ere this, that their statements regarding the impalement of the Christian insurgents in Bosnia was not founded on facts, and that their credulity had been grossly imposed on. I have, however, just received all the correspondence on the subject lately published in the "Times," and, to my profound astonishment, I see that Mr. McColl, in a letter from Paris of October 4, not only persists in the veracity of his statement, but adduces the evidence of Bishop Strossmayer, who "said it was all quite true, with this addition, that women as well as men were impaled. One woman he said was impaled when she was near her confinement."

I need not repeat all the reasons against the probability of these statements given in my despatch of the 5th October, but I have again spoken to my colleagues on the subject, and one and all have agreed that such cruelties could not have occurred without our having heard of them, and that the reverend travellers, unable, in this land of falsehood and intrigue, to distinguish truth from fiction, or the motives with which lies are told, had been the victims of a monstrous joke.

My Austrian colleague, has Vice-Consuls at Sivno, Banialuka, Britchka, and he states that it is impossible to believe that such atrocities could have been perpetrated without some of them reporting it, or without a whisper of it even having been breathed in the Slav newspapers. He thinks, also, that Bishop Strossmayer's words have been entirely misunderstood, and were perhaps referring to what took place in ancient times; and, at my request, he writes to-day to the Bishop to ask an explanation on the subject, which I shall transmit to your Excellency as soon as it arrives. I suggested to my Austrian colleague that if Bishop Strossmayer had said what he is reported to have done, he should ask him to substantiate his assertion by particulars, as to where, when, and by whom, these cruelties were committed, so that there should be no doubt as to the truth, and that the parties should be brought to punishment.

After much reflection, however, the matter is, I think, as clear as possible. Near most Bosnian farmhouses there are stakes, such as Mr. McColl describes, around which the haricot beans are fixed up to dry, with something above them to keep off the birds. At the time of Mr. McColl's voyage down the Save it is probable that most of the beans had been garnered, but a portion might have been left on one of the stakes which attracted his attention. This, on being pointed out to some practical joker amongst the officers of the steamboat, with its accidental likeness to a body, together, perhaps, with the previous conversation of the travellers, suggested the hoax, which, on seeing that it was seriously accepted, was kept up till the end of the journey.

All the subsequent confirmation by Bishop Strossmayer or others I take to have been the result of misunderstanding and preconceived conviction. Nothing but the most ample proof will convince me of the truth of these gentlemen's statements. Impalement was, thirty or forty years ago, a very common mode of execution, but for the last twenty years, not even in the wilds of Mesopotamia, much less in Europe, have I ever heard of a single instance of this old barbarous custom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 962.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord, *Paris, November* 13, 1876.

IN my despatch of the 6th instant, I inclosed a copy of a Memorandum reciting the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference at Constantinople which I had sent to the Duc Decazes on that day.

That Memorandum gave the substance of the telegraphic instruction which I had received from your Lordship on the subject.

I have since had the honour to receive your Lordship's written despatch of the 4th instant, recording the proposals in question, and I have to-day sent a copy of it to the Duc Decazes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 963.

Telegraphic Summary of Statement by Greek Foreign Minister.—(Communicated by M. Gennadius, November 14, 1876.)

Athènes, le 12 *Novembre,* 1876.

INTERPELLÉ hier à la Chambre sur la ligne politique que le Cabinet compte suivre, je me suis exprimé à peu près en ces termes: La marche que nous avons suivie jusqu'à présent démontre suffisamment celle que nous suivrons, si la Représentation Nationale veut bien continuer de laisser en nos mains la direction des affaires de l'Etat. Nous avons été partisans de la politique de la paix, et nous ne cesserons de l'être, à moins que le cours des événements ne nous force à adopter une autre ligne de conduite; or, c'est en prévision de cette dernière éventualité que nous avons jugé et jugeons nécessaire de préparer les forces militaires du pays. Cette préparation ne doit donc pas être considérée comme un indice de tendances et de desseins belliqueux; elle doit être simplement regardée comme une mesure de prévoyance adoptée en vue de nécessités possibles. En attendant, nous espérons que l'Europe, se basant sur la justice, et ayant en vue d'établir une paix durable en Orient, adoptera des mesures efficaces et propres à atteindre ce double but, et que par là elle nous rendra plus facile à nous-mêmes la persévérance dans le dessein que nous avons formé et poursuivi dès l'origine, et dans lequel nous tenons à persévérer. Nous avons grand besoin de cet appui moral pour ne pas nous départir de la politique de la paix; en effet je manquerai de franchise si j'essayais de dissimuler qu'il serait malaise, pour ne pas dire impossible, que le Royaume Hellénique puisse demeurer impassible et inerte lorsqu'il s'agit des destinées de la Grèce asservie. Ce qui lie la Grèce esclave et la Grèce libre, ce n'est pas seulement la communauté de la race, et de la langue, et des mœurs, et des traditions nationales; c'est encore le sentiment d'une dette sacrée contractée par la Grèce libre envers celle qui ne l'est pas. Car la Grèce libre n'a jamais perdu ni ne perdra le sentiment et la mémoire de ce fait, que la liberté de l'Etat Hellénique actuel est le produit des efforts et des sacrifices communs de tout l'Hellénisme. Ainsi donc aucune autorité, aucun pouvoir ne se trouvera qui ait assez de force pour imposer à la Grèce libre la patience et la tranquillité en présence des injustices que l'on commettrait au détriment de la Grèce esclave.

(Translation.)

Athens, November 12, 1876.

HAVING a question put to me yesterday in the Chamber respecting the line of policy which the Cabinet intends to pursue, I expressed myself as nearly as possible

in these words: The course which we have pursued up to the present moment shows sufficiently that which we shall continue to pursue if the National Representatives are willing to leave the direction of the affairs of the State in our hands. We have advocated a policy of peace, and we shall continue to do so, unless the course of events forces us to adopt a different line of conduct. Thus, it is in view of this last contingency that we have considered, and still consider, it necessary to prepare the military forces of the country. This preparation must not, therefore, be considered as indicating warlike tendencies and designs; it must only be regarded as a measure of precaution adopted with a view to a possible necessity. In the meanwhile, we hope that Europe, taking justice as a basis, and having for its object the establishment of a lasting peace in the East, will adopt effectual measures, and such as are fitting for the attainment of this twofold end, and that by these means she will make it easier for us to persevere in the plan which we have formed and carried out from the commencement, and which we intend to abide by. We stand in great need of this moral support, lest we should be led to depart from the policy of peace. In a word, I should be wanting in sincerity if I attempted to deny that it would be difficult, not to say impossible, that the Hellenic Kingdom should remain unmoved and quiescent when the destiny of enslaved Greece is in question. The tie which binds that part of Greece which is enslaved to that which is free is not only their common nationality, common language, manners, and national traditions; it is more than this—it is the feeling of a sacred debt contracted by that part of Greece which is free towards that which is not. For Free Greece has never lost, and will never lose, the feeling and remembrance of the fact, that the liberty of the Hellenic State, as it at present exists, is the result of the efforts and common sacrifices of the whole Hellenic element.

Thus no authority or power will be found to have influence enough to impose patience and tranquillity on the free states of Greece, when in presence of any unjust acts perpetrated to the prejudice of enslaved Greece.

No. 964.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November* 14, 1876.

GERMAN Government have accepted the Conference in principle, and only wait for the adherence of all the other Powers to declare their adherence officially.

German Emperor will not, however, appoint a second Ambassador.

No. 965.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Stuart.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1876.

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon, and communicated to me the telegram of which I inclose a copy,* giving the substance of a statement made in the Chamber by the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs as to the policy of the Greek Government in view of the present state of Turkey.

M. Gennadius repeated to me the observations which he had made to me on previous occasions as to the expediency of extending to the Greek provinces of Turkey any reforms or concessions that may be granted to the insurgent districts. He added, however, a remark which I had not heard from him before, to the effect that his Government were becoming seriously alarmed at the designs of the Sclavonic societies. These now openly avowed that they aimed at the creation of a Sclavonic State, including in its limits districts in which the majority of the population were of Greek race.

This, M. Gennadius said, made it more necessary than ever that the claims of the Greek subjects of Turkey should be properly represented.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 963.

No. 966.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1876.

I HAVE to instruct you to express to the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Government of Prince Charles will continue to observe a policy of neutrality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 967.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1876.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the communication which you made to Safvet Pasha upon receiving Mr. Marsh's letter respecting the state of affairs in the neighbourhood of Yamboli, as reported in your despatch of the 20th ultimo.

I have also to request your Excellency to inform me whether you have considered the suggestion made by Mr. Baring in his Report of the 13th ultimo, as to the necessity for a Committee of Inquiry north of the Balkans.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 968.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

My Lord, *Aleih, October* 30, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting that the good feeling which had previously existed between the Mussulmans and Christians of Syria shows signs of diminishing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 968.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Aleih, October* 27, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the good feeling which of late has existed between the Mussulmans and Christians of Syria has, during the last month, shown some signs of diminishing, owing to the turn the negotiations for the settlement of the existing difficulties have taken.

The agitation that has recently taken place in England in consequence of the Bulgarian atrocities, has also tended to excite the Mussulmans, who have in some degree lost their faith in the support they expected the English Government would afford to Turkey.

Beyond a few isolated quarrels amongst the lower classes of the population, I have not heard of any case in which the public peace has been seriously threatened; but it is, nevertheless, an undoubted fact that the harmony which reigned a few weeks ago no longer exists, and the uneasiness with regard to the future has of late considerably increased amongst all classes, who are anxious that some settlement should be speedily arrived at, as all interests are suffering in consequence of the present uncertainty which keeps the public mind in a state of agitation and irritability.

The Lebanon continues, however, to enjoy the same tranquillity which I have mentioned in my former reports, and I am informed that the Christians of Sidon are

talking of seeking refuge in the mountain should any serious fanatical demonstration render such a step necessary.

This is a proof of the confidence felt in the present administration of the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 969.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, October* 31, 1876.

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship by telegraph the loss by the Servian army on the 29th instant, of Djunis, and their other important positions about Deligrad in Morava Valley.

The greatness of this military disaster is hardly realised here yet, but it appears to have been much more conclusive than is admitted in official quarters, and to palliate its effects a variety of rumours have been set in circulation, such as the immediate intervention of Russia, assistance on the part of Roumania, and the arrival of a considerable Russian detatchment of armed men.

No. 970.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, November* 1, 1876.

PRINCE WREDE was so kind as to communicate to me this morning a telegram from Count Andrassy stating the acceptance by the Porte of the Russian proposal of an armistice for two months, and for two further terms of six weeks if required.

Prince Wrede was informed by M. Ristich that Servia was quite prepared this time to accept this arrangement.

I abstain from seeing any member of this Government until I receive a confirmation of the terms agreed upon at Constantinople, from Her Majesty's Ambassador there.

In the meantime intelligence has been received by my Russian colleagues from Livadia announcing that General Ignatiew had been instructed to say that he would take his departure if an armistice was not conceded by the Porte within forty-eight hours.

Bills conveying the news have been printed and posted at the corners of streets by the authorities to make the people continue to rely on Russian protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 971.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

My Lord, *Scutari, November* 4, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that official notice was received this morning from the Porte by the authorities here and at Podgoritza that an armistice has been concluded between Turkey and Montenegro and Servia, but no mention is made in the communication of the length of time the armistice is to last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 972.

Major-General Walker to Lord Odo Russell.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, November* 15.)

My Lord, *Berlin, November* 13, 1876.

I CONCLUDE that your Lordship has been informed by Herr von Bülow that Military Commissioners will be dispatched from Berlin for the purpose of assisting in defining the line of demarcation between the Turkish and Servian-Montenegrin armies, and that they will proceed to Ragusa and Belgrade.

General von Kameke informs me that he has desired these officers to make the acquaintance, under his introduction, of Colonel Lennox, whom he supposes to be *en route* for the same destination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BEAUCHAMP WALKER,
Military Attaché.

No. 973.

Memorandum communicated by Count Münster, November 15, 1876.

THE German Government consent to the English programme for negotiations at Constantinople, and have authorized accordingly the Ambassador, Baron von Werther, to take part there at the deliberations.

No. 974.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 15, 1876, 11·40 A.M.

I SHOULD be glad to be informed whether your Lordship thinks it necessary that Sir A. Kemball should remain at the Turkish head-quarters to watch over the observance of the armistice till Major Gonne can return there. The point might perhaps be left to his discretion.

No. 975.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 15, 1876.

COUNT MÜNSTER informed me to-day that the German Government consent to the English programme for the negotiations at Constantinople, and have accordingly authorized the Imperial Ambassador, Baron von Werther, to take part there in the deliberations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 976.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1876.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 7th instant, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the note which you addressed to the Italian Government, and a copy of which is therein inclosed, embodying the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference on the affairs of the East.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 977.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1876.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Blunt's despatch of the 1st instant respecting the Bulgarian women and children who have been carried away from Batak, and who are supposed to be detained at Nevrocop and other districts of the Vilayet of Salonica, I have to request your Excellency to approve the steps taken by Mr. Blunt for the restoration of those poor people to their homes.

I have also to instruct your Excellency to make a strong representation to the Porte respecting the conduct of Ali Bey, and of the other subordinate officers of the Pasha of Salonica. It is most urgent that those officers should be positively instructed to render all the co-operation and support which it is in their power to give.

Her Majesty's Government will take another opportunity of marking their sense of the disregard which has been shown to the representations of your Excellency with respect to the redress of the outrages inflicted on the Christian population at Batak and the other places mentioned in Mr. Baring's Report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 978.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1876.

YOUR telegram of the 15th instant has been received, and, in reply, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it may be left to Sir A. Kemball's discretion to decide whether or not he should remain at the head-quarters of the Turkish army to watch over the observance of the armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY

No. 979.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1876.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are greatly surprised at receiving no answer from the Porte about the Conference.

They cannot believe, after the urgent manner in which they have pressed it on the the acceptance of the Porte as the only alternative left for the averting of war, that the Porte will refuse it, and the delay in the acceptance is becoming dangerous to the preservation of peace, as well as unfriendly to Her Majesty's Government.

If this last chance is allowed to pass, Her Majesty's Government will, in future negotiations, be compelled to withdraw all support and countenance from the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 980.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 30, 1876.

AT a meeting of the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers, General Ignatiew informed us of the progress of the negotiations between himself and the Porte for the conclusion of an armistice, and he communicated to us the project, of which a copy is herewith inclosed, which had been drawn up, with some modifications, from a form which he had himself suggested.

If his draft had ~~been adopted exactly as he had given it, the question~~ would, he

said, have been settled; but he could not agree to some of the alterations introduced by the Porte, and he had marked on the margin of the paper he had given us the modifications that he must require.

The first of these is the exclusion of the words "Servia and Montenegro" after the mention of the theatre of hostilities to which the armistice is to apply; and I, in common with all my colleagues, considered the omission asked for by the Russian Ambassador to be desirable.

The second change required by General Ignatiew deprives the arrangement, as your Lordship will see from the inclosure, of the absolute character of the prolongation to be given to the armistice at the expiration of the first term if the negotiations for peace should not then be concluded.

Although the distinction is far from unimportant, I feel so little doubt of the Porte's acceptance of General Ignatiew's formula, that I considered myself justified in telegraphing to your Lordship that the arrangement had very nearly been come to.

Shortly after I had sent my telegram, General Ignatiew sent to say that there had been an inaccuracy in the version he had given to us of the amendment that he had proposed to the Porte, which ought to have been as marked in the inclosure as "corrected version."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 980.

Porte's Project for an Armistice.	*General Ignatiew's Modifications.*
UNE longue incertitude étant nuisible aux intérêts commerciaux, industriels et financiers de toute l'Europe et préjudiciable à la prompte conclusion d'une paix durable que toutes les Puissances désirent, un armistice est conclu à dater du . . . . sur tout le théâtre [de la guerre en Serbie et ou Montenégro], et cet armistice durera jusqu'au . . . . Décembre.	
A la suite de cette décision des délégués seront nommés de la part des Puissances Médiatrices, et envoyés immédiatement sur les lieux pour procéder aux opérations de démarcation.	
Si, contre toute attente, une paix durable n'était pas conclue jusqu'à l'expiration du délai ci-dessus indiqué, la durée de l'armistice [sera prolongée de six autres semaines sans que dans l'intervalle aucune des deux parties puisse se permettre de reprendre les hostilités.	*Original Version.* pourrait être prolongée selon les nécessités de la négociation, et l'accord qui interviendrait entre la Sublime Porte et les Puissances garantes.
A l'expiration de ce second délai l'armistice sera prolongé de deux mois à moins que les Puissances Médiatrices décident entre elles la reprise des hostilités].	*Corrected Version.* pourrait être prolongée si la marche des négociations en démontrait la nécessité.

(Translation.)

Porte's Project for an Armistice.	*General Ignatiew's Modifications.*
AS a long period of uncertainty is hurtful to the commercial, industrial, and financial interests of the whole of Europe, and prejudicial to the prompt conclusion of a lasting peace, which is desired by all the Powers, an armistice is concluded, dating from . . . . throughout the whole seat [of war,	of hostilities

Porte's Project for an Armistice.	*General Ignatiew's Modifications.*
in Servia or Montenegro], and this armistice shall last till the of December. On this being decided, the Mediating Powers shall name delegates, who shall be sent immediately to the spots to proceed to the work of demarcation. If, contrary to all expectation, a lasting peace should not be concluded before the expiration of the delay indicated above, the armistice [shall be prolonged for another six weeks without either party in the interval being at liberty to renew hostilities. At the expiration of this second delay, the armistice shall be prolonged for two months, unless the Mediating Powers decide among themselves on the renewal of hostilities].	*Original Version.* is capable of prolongation, according as the necessities of the negotiations, and the agreement which may be arrived between the Sublime Porte and the Guaranteeing Powers, may require it. *Corrected Version.* is capable of prolongation, if the progress of the negotiations should prove that this were necessary

No. 981.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 31, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a report of the account given of what passed at General Ignatiew's private audience of the Sultan.

I would draw your Lordship's attention to the assurance given by the Ambassador that he was not the bearer of an ultimatum from his Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 981.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.)

HIS Majesty began the conversation by telling his Excellency that he felt perhaps more anxious than anybody to see the immediate conclusion of peace in order that he might direct his special attention to the reforms and other domestic matters which it was hoped would largely contribute to the general welfare of his subjects.

The General said, in reply, that all the Powers wished sincerely for peace, and that this was the principal reason which had induced the Emperor to urge for an armistice of six weeks' duration as being most calculated to lead to that result. Russia, he went on to say, was greatly interested in the re-establishment of peace in the Sultan's dominions inasmuch as the effect of the present troubles recoiled upon Russia, who was sincerely anxious for the prosperity of the Ottoman Empire and for the establishment of friendly relations proper to neighbouring States. The Sultan answered much in the same language, expressing the hope that the conclusion of peace will strengthen more than ever the ties of friendship which have hitherto existed between Russia and Turkey; in reply to which the General said he now felt satisfied that such a good understanding would also lead to mutual confidence in the good intentions of the two countries.

Before taking leave of the Sultan General Ignatiew begged to assure His Majesty that he was not, as rumour said, the bearer of an ultimatum, the object aimed at by his Government being but peace and the tranquillity of Turkey.

No. 982.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Extract) *Therapia, October 31, 1876.*

WHEN I called yesterday on Safvet Pasha he gave me the inclosed paper as containing the form in which the Porte had decided to agree to the armistice.

I remarked that, as it differed considerably from that communicated by General Ignatiew, I thought it likely that the Ambassador would take exception to some parts of it, and especially to the concluding paragraph about the insurgent bands in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had not been in the first draft, and which I regretted to see now introduced.

Safvet Pasha having answered that the whole document was strictly in conformity with an understanding come to between General Ignatiew and the Grand Vizier after a very long conversation, I said that, if this was the case, I had no objections to offer, and, after leaving the Porte, I went up to Buyukdere in company with the Italian Minister to call upon the General, when, notwithstanding the assurances of Safvet Pasha, it was not without surprise that I found him, on the whole, well satisfied with the document, the only parts of it to which he appeared seriously to object being the proposal that a Turkish delegate should be named along with those of the Powers for the arrangement of the armistice, and the term of eight days allowed to the insurgent bands to quit the country.

His Excellency would have preferred the omission of all mention of the insurgents, but he showed no inclination to insist upon it, provided a month instead of a week were allowed for their departure.

I pointed out that the statement that the armistice was to be concluded under the guarantee of the mediating Powers would require to be altered, as I was not in a position to give, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, a pledge for its execution, by which they might be called upon to take measures against either of the parties which failed to observe it.

General Ignatiew said that he entirely agreed with me in considering that it ought to have been stated that the armistice would be concluded under the mediation and not under the guarantee of the Powers, and although, for his part, he would have accepted the words as they stood, it might be better to have them altered.

We agreed that we should both write to Safvet Pasha, calling his attention to the expression, and also to urge that a longer period than a week should be given to the insurgents to quit the country, some provision of this sort being, in the opinion of the Porte, indispensable on the assumption, whether correct or not I am unable to say, that the bands are composed entirely of foreigners.

I inclose a copy of the letter which I, in consequence, addressed the same evening to Safvet Pasha.

There was, therefore, good reason for believing confidently that a perfect agreement would be come to, in the course of the following day, between the Porte and the Russian Ambassador, and it was arranged that the different Representatives should meet in the afternoon, when it was hoped that General Ignatiew would be able to announce to us this wished-for result.

When we met, however, we found that the position had totally changed, and that General Ignatiew had received peremptory instructions to insist upon an unconditional armistice of six weeks or two months, without any arrangement for its renewal; to object altogether to what was proposed about the insurgent bands, and to inform the Porte that, unless these conditions were accepted, and all hostilities immediately suspended, he was to break off the relations of the two countries, and to leave Constantinople, with all the members of the Embassy, within forty-eight hours.

General Ignatiew said that two days ago he had received this ultimatum desiring him to leave if hostilities were not at once stopped, and had taken upon himself to delay presenting it, but the proposal of the Porte with regard to the insurgent bands had been considered by his Government so unreasonable that they had ordered him at once to carry out his instructions.

Nevertheless, he had not yet done so, and had confined himself to writing a private letter to Safvet Pasha, informing him what his Government expected, but if a fully satisfactory answer was not received that evening he must send it in.

P.S. *November* 1.—The ultimatum was sent in last night, before, I believe, the answer of the Porte was received.

Inclosure 1 in No. 982.

Form of Armistice proposed by Porte.

POUR mettre un terme aux maux de la guerre un armistice de deux mois est conclu sous la garantie des Puissances Médiatrices à partir de . . . ; par conséquent les hostilités cesseront dès ce moment sur tout le théâtre de la guerre; des délégués seront nommés de la part des Puissances Garantes ainsi que de celle du Gouvernement Ottoman et envoyés immédiatement sur les lieux des hostilités en Serbie et au Monténégro pour procéder aux opérations de démarcation. Si, contre toute attente, une paix durable n'était pas conclus jusqu'à l'expiration de ce délai, et si le cours des négociations l'exigeait, un nouveau délai de six semaines sera établi. Après quoi l'armistice pourrait être encore prolongé de six autres semaines selon ce qui serait convenu entre la Sublime Porte et toutes les Puissances Garantes. Les bandes qui se trouvent en dehors des lignes de démarcation, tant en Bosnie qu'en Herzégovine, et dans d'autres localités, et qui troublent constamment le repos et la tranquillité de ces provinces, seront sommés par le Gouvernement Impérial de quitter le pays dans l'espace d'une semaine; dans le cas où ils ne se conformeraient pas à cette sommation, ils seront poursuivis par les troupes Ottomanes.

(Translation.)

TO put an end to the evils of the war an armistice of two months is concluded under the guarantee of the Mediating Powers, commencing on the ; consequently hostilities will cease from that moment throughout the whole theatre of the war; delegates will be named on the part of the Guaranteeing Powers as well as on that of the Ottoman Government, and will be sent immediately to the scene of the hostilities in Servia and Montenegro, in order to proceed at once to the work of demarcation. If, contrary to all expectations, a lasting peace should not be concluded before the expiration of this delay, and if the course of the negotiations demanded it, a fresh delay of six weeks will be fixed. After which the armistice may be still prolonged another six weeks, according to what may be arranged between the Sublime Porte and the Guaranteeing Powers. The bands which are outside the lines of demarcation, both in Bosnia and in the Herzegovina, and in other localities, and which constantly disturb the repose and tranquillity of those provinces, will be summoned by the Imperial Government to quit the country within the space of one week; in the case of their not conforming with this summons, they will be pursued by the Ottoman troops.

Inclosure 2 in No. 982.

Sir H. Elliot to Safvet Pasha.

Mon cher Ministre, *Therapia, le* 30 *Octobre*, 1876.

DANS la pièce que vous avez eu la bonté de me donner cet après-midi il est dit " qu'un armistice de deux mois est conclu sous la garantie des Puissances Médiatrices."

Je pense qu'il doit y être une erreur de rédaction, et que vous ayez voulu dire, " conclu sous la médiation des Puissances Garantes."

Mon Gouvernement s'est déclaré prêt à offrir sa médiation pour un armistice, mais jamais de la garantir, et je ne saurais prendre sur moi de l'engager à donner une garantie qui nous obligerait à intervenir activement dans le cas où l'une ou l'autre des parties belligérantes n'observerait pas l'armistice.

Avec cette correction à faire dans la rédaction de la pièce je ne vois rien à y objecter, sauf le terme de huit jours qu'on accorde aux bandes insurgées pour quitter le pays, qui est évidemment matériellement insuffisant, et qu'il sera necessaire à porter à trente jours.

Une fois d'accord sur les principes de l'armistice il faudra prendre des mesures immediates pour arrêter une effusion de sang inutile, et j'espère que la Porte donnera des ordres à ses commandants militaires de suspendre toutes opérations dès qu'elle aura reçu la notification que la Serbie les aurait acceptés.

(Signé) HENRY ELLIOT.

(Translation.)

My dear Minister, *Therapia, October* 30, 1876.

IN the paper which you were good enough to give me this afternoon, it is stated that "an armistice of two months is concluded under the guarantee of the Mediating Powers." I think this must be an oversight, and that you meant to say "concluded under the mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers."

My Government have declared their readiness to offer their mediation for an armistice, but never to guarantee it; and I do not undertake to bind them to give a guarantee which would oblige us to intervene actively in the event of the non-observance of the armistice by one or other of the belligerents.

With this correction in the wording of the paper, I see nothing in it to object to, excepting the term of eight days granted to the insurgent bands to leave the country, for it is evidently materially insufficient, and must necessarily be increased to thirty days.

An agreement upon the principles of the armistice once arrived at, it will be necessary to take immediate steps to prevent useless bloodshed, and I hope that the Porte will give orders to its military commanders to suspend all operations as soon as it has received the notification of their acceptance by Servia.

Receive, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 983.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 31, 1876.

SAFVET PASHA has asked me to convey to your Lordship the earnest hope of the Porte that there may not be a Conference.

I said that I had heard little on the subject of late, but that it seemed to be understood among the Powers that a Conference should be held, and I reminded him that on two occasions within a few years there had been Conferences which the Porte had equally disliked, but which had not proved injurious.

Safvet Pasha said that, although this was true, a Conference had never been held at a period when the Powers were so unfavourably disposed towards Turkey.

It had been proposed that the Porte should not be represented at a Conference to be held at Constantinople, and that in fact some Governments seemed to intend that the Conference should be a sort of European Tribunal by which a sentence should be pronounced against Turkey *par contumace*.

I said that there was no reason for believing this proposal to have found general favour among the Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 984.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 2, 1876.

ALTHOUGH by the Porte's acceptance of the Russian ultimatum the prospect of an immediate rupture between the two countries may have been averted, the grounds for hoping that it may ultimately be avoided still appears very faint.

General Ignatiew says distinctly that if the Porte will not now make peace, that is to say, accept a peace upon the conditions that Russia requires, his Government is resolved to enforce them by war.

He hopes, he says, that the Powers, by unanimously letting the Porte understand that they were decided upon its accepting the terms upon which they might agree, may save his Government from the necessity of taking the step to which they may otherwise be forced.

I remarked that the line of action which had just been pursued by his Government showed how difficult it was for other countries to proceed in concert with them.

It had been agreed between the Cabinets that the Porte should be urged to

Inclosure 1 in No. 982.

Form of Armistice proposed by Porte.

POUR mettre un terme aux maux de la guerre un armistice de deux mois est conclu sous la garantie des Puissances Médiatrices à partir de . . . ; par conséquent les hostilités cesseront dès ce moment sur tout le théâtre de la guerre; des délégués seront nommés de la part des Puissances Garantes ainsi que de celle du Gouvernement Ottoman et envoyés immédiatement sur les lieux des hostilités en Serbie et au Monténégro pour procéder aux opérations de démarcation. Si, contre toute attente, une paix durable n'était pas conclus jusqu'à l'expiration de ce délai, et si le cours des négociations l'exigeait, un nouveau délai de six semaines sera établi. Après quoi l'armistice pourrait être encore prolongé de six autres semaines selon ce qui serait convenu entre la Sublime Porte et toutes les Puissances Garantes. Les bandes qui se trouvent en dehors des lignes de démarcation, tant en Bosnie qu'en Herzégovine, et dans d'autres localités, et qui troublent constamment le repos et la tranquillité de ces provinces, seront sommés par le Gouvernement Impérial de quitter le pays dans l'espace d'une semaine; dans le cas où ils ne se conformeraient pas à cette sommation, ils seront poursuivis par les troupes Ottomanes.

(Translation.)

TO put an end to the evils of the war an armistice of two months is concluded under the guarantee of the Mediating Powers, commencing on the ; consequently hostilities will cease from that moment throughout the whole theatre of the war; delegates will be named on the part of the Guaranteeing Powers as well as on that of the Ottoman Government, and will be sent immediately to the scene of the hostilities in Servia and Montenegro, in order to proceed at once to the work of demarcation. If, contrary to all expectations, a lasting peace should not be concluded before the expiration of this delay, and if the course of the negotiations demanded it, a fresh delay of six weeks will be fixed. After which the armistice may be still prolonged another six weeks, according to what may be arranged between the Sublime Porte and the Guaranteeing Powers. The bands which are outside the lines of demarcation, both in Bosnia and in the Herzegovina, and in other localities, and which constantly disturb the repose and tranquillity of those provinces, will be summoned by the Imperial Government to quit the country within the space of one week; in the case of their not conforming with this summons, they will be pursued by the Ottoman troops.

Inclosure 2 in No. 982.

Sir H. Elliot to Safvet Pasha.

Mon cher Ministre, *Therapia, le* 30 *Octobre,* 1876.

DANS la pièce que vous avez eu la bonté de me donner cet après-midi il est dit " qu'un armistice de deux mois est conclu sous la garantie des Puissances Médiatrices."

Je pense qu'il doit y être une erreur de rédaction, et que vous ayez voulu dire, " conclu sous la médiation des Puissances Garantes."

Mon Gouvernement s'est déclaré prêt à offrir sa médiation pour un armistice, mais jamais de la garantir, et je ne saurais prendre sur moi de l'engager à donner une garantie qui nous obligerait à intervenir activement dans le cas où l'une ou l'autre des parties belligérantes n'observerait pas l'armistice.

Avec cette correction à faire dans la rédaction de la pièce je ne vois rien à y objecter, sauf le terme de huit jours qu'on accorde aux bandes insurgées pour quitter le pays, qui est évidemment matériellement insuffisant, et qu'il sera necessaire à porter à trente jours.

Une fois d'accord sur les principes de l'armistice il faudra prendre des mesures immediates pour arrêter une effusion de sang inutile, et j'espère que la Porte donnera des ordres à ses commandants militaires de suspendre toutes opérations dès qu'elle aura reçu la notification que la Serbie les aurait acceptés.

(Signé) HENRY ELLIOT.

(Translation.)

Therapia, October 30, 1876.

My dear Minister,

IN the paper which you were good enough to give me this afternoon, it is stated that "an armistice of two months is concluded under the guarantee of the Mediating Powers." I think this must be an oversight, and that you meant to say "concluded under the mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers."

My Government have declared their readiness to offer their mediation for an armistice, but never to guarantee it; and I do not undertake to bind them to give a guarantee which would oblige us to intervene actively in the event of the non-observance of the armistice by one or other of the belligerents.

With this correction in the wording of the paper, I see nothing in it to object to, excepting the term of eight days granted to the insurgent bands to leave the country, for it is evidently materially insufficient, and must necessarily be increased to thirty days.

An agreement upon the principles of the armistice once arrived at, it will be necessary to take immediate steps to prevent useless bloodshed, and I hope that the Porte will give orders to its military commanders to suspend all operations as soon as it has received the notification of their acceptance by Servia.

Receive, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 983.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

Therapia, October 31, 1876.

My Lord,

SAFVET PASHA has asked me to convey to your Lordship the earnest hope of the Porte that there may not be a Conference.

I said that I had heard little on the subject of late, but that it seemed to be understood among the Powers that a Conference should be held, and I reminded him that on two occasions within a few years there had been Conferences which the Porte had equally disliked, but which had not proved injurious.

Safvet Pasha said that, although this was true, a Conference had never been held at a period when the Powers were so unfavourably disposed towards Turkey.

It had been proposed that the Porte should not be represented at a Conference to be held at Constantinople, and that in fact some Governments seemed to intend that the Conference should be a sort of European Tribunal by which a sentence should be pronounced against Turkey *par contumace*.

I said that there was no reason for believing this proposal to have found general favour among the Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 984.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

Therapia, November 2, 1876.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH by the Porte's acceptance of the Russian ultimatum the prospect of an immediate rupture between the two countries may have been averted, the grounds for hoping that it may ultimately be avoided still appears very faint.

General Ignatiew says distinctly that if the Porte will not now make peace, that is to say, accept a peace upon the conditions that Russia requires, his Government is resolved to enforce them by war.

He hopes, he says, that the Powers, by unanimously letting the Porte understand that they were decided upon its accepting the terms upon which they might agree, may save his Government from the necessity of taking the step to which they may otherwise be forced.

I remarked that the line of action which had just been pursued by his Government showed how difficult it was for other countries to proceed in concert with them.

It had been agreed between the Cabinets that the Porte should be urged to

grant an armistice, and under their united pressure it had consented to one upon conditions, which many, if not the majority, of them considered satisfactory.

The Russian Government, however, took a different view, and without any regard to the opinion of others, at once proceeded to act independently of them, and went the length of threatening to break off relations with Turkey, and to proceed to hostilities if the Porte did not forthwith comply with their demands.

If a similar course were to be followed in the difficult negotiations which have to be undertaken for the conclusion of peace the harmonious action of the Powers would be an impossibility.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 985.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, November 2, 1876.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW told me this morning that he had been directed by his Government to inform the Porte that they would consider any excesses committed by the Turkish troops as a violation of the armistice, and one of the Secretaries of the Russian Embassy was desired this afternoon to tell me further that the General had orders at once to leave Constantinople upon any violation of it occurring.

A ready pretext for a rupture appears thus to be prepared.

No. 986.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, November 2, 1876.*

IN the course of conversation this morning with General Ignatiew I remarked that I understood that he had returned from Livadia with instructions to present his ultimatum.

He answered that he had brought it with him with a discretionary authority to withhold it if he thought desirable.

This is a rather different version from that which he had previously given to my colleagues and myself when he told us on Tuesday that he had received the ultimatum two days before, and that he had taken on himself the responsibility of withholding it, but had now received imperative orders to execute his instructions.

It is impossible to doubt that he had kept his Government fully informed of the progress of his negotiations with the Porte, or that they were perfectly aware that his own proposals had been accepted with very trifling modifications upon which an understanding could easily be arrived at.

It is evident enough that the sudden sending in of the ultimatum was decided upon in the hope that by an immediate cessation of hostilities and the acceptance of an armistice the fall of Alexinatz would be averted.

The capture of the Servian positions at Junis made it certain that the occupation of Alexinatz and Deligrad would soon follow, and the only hope of saving the Servians and the Russian auxiliary troops from this mortification lay in the chance of stopping the Turks before they had time to reap the fruits of their success.

No. 987.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, November 2, 1876.*

AT General Ignatiew's request I have to-day telegraphed to Sir A. Kemball, asking him to endeavour to get the names of any Russian officers among the prisoners in the late engagements in Servia, and to recommend them to the kind treatment of the Turkish commanders.

No. 988.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 2, 1876.*

LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS, by his telegram to your Lordship of yesterday's date, reported that the German Ambassador stated that hopes were entertained at Livadia that the armistice demanded by General Ignatiew would be granted by the Porte if not opposed by me.

Your Lordship is aware of the utter groundlessness of the insinuation, not made now for the first time, that I encourage the Porte to resist the concessions demanded of it, and that I have, on the contrary, frequently gone beyond your Lordship's instructions, although, I hope, not beyond your wishes, in recommending a compliance with the requirements of Russia.

I am not much given to dwelling upon my own proceedings, but it must be perfectly well known to the Russian Government, that if up to this time a rupture with this country has not taken place, it is principally owing to the influence I have exerted in recommending a prudent and conciliatory line of conduct to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 989.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 2, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of the ultimatum addressed to the Porte on that day by General Ignatiew on the subject of the armistice, together with a copy of Safvet Pasha's reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 989.

General Ignatiew to Safvet Pasha.

Buyukderé, le $\frac{19}{31}$ Octobre, 1876.

LE Soussigné, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies est chargé de faire à son Excellence Safvet Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, la communication suivante:—

Les événements qui se passent depuis un an dans quelques provinces de l'Empire Ottoman et qui ont abouti à la guerre entre la Turquie et les Principautés de Serbie et de Monténégro ne pouvaient laisser indifférent le Cabinet Impérial. Ils avaient trouvé un vif écho dans la nation Russe, unie par des liens multiples et des traditions séculaires aux populations Chrétiennes de la Péninsule Balcanique. Sa Majesté l'Empereur a partagé les sympathies de son peuple et s'est employé d'accord avec les autres Grands Cabinets au rétablissement de l'ordre et de la paix. Les Puissances Garantes étant tombées d'accord pour poser comme bases de pacification le maintien du *status quo ante* dans les Principautés de Serbie et du Monténégro, les opérations militaires qui y sont poursuivies actuellement par les troupes Ottomanes constituent une effusion de sang inutile.

Le carnage ayant pris ces derniers jours des proportions qui blessent le sentiment d'humanité sans pouvoir amener aucun résultat, l'Empereur mon auguste Maître ne saurait le tolérer plus longtemps, en présence des lenteurs qu'éprouvent les négociations pour la conclusion d'un armistice restreint.

Le Soussigné est donc chargé de déclarer à la Sublime Porte, au nom de Sa Majesté, que si, dans l'espace de deux fois vingt quatre heures après la remise de la présente note, un armistice effectif et inconditionnel de six semaines à deux mois, embrassant tous les combattants, n'est pas conclu et des ordres péremptoires ne sont point transmis aux Commandants des troupes Ottomanes pour arrêter immédiatement toutes les opérations militaires, il devra quitter Constantinople avec tout le personnel de l'Ambassade Impériale.

Le Soussigné prie son Excellence Safvet Pacha d'agréer l'expression personnelle de sa haute considération.

(Signé) IGNATIEW.

(Translation.)

Buyukderé, October $\frac{19}{31}$, 1876.

THE Undersigned, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, is instructed to make the following communication to his Excellency Safvet Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Sublime Porte:—

The events which for the last year have been taking place in some provinces of the Ottoman Empire, and which have resulted in a war between Turkey and the Principalities of Servia and Montenegro, could not be a matter of indifference to the Imperial Cabinet. They found a keen echo in the Russian nation, united as it is by many bonds and secular traditions to the Christian populations of the Balkan Peninsula. His Majesty the Emperor has shared the sympathies of his people, and has applied himself, in concert with the other Great Cabinets, to the re-establishment of order and peace.

As the Guaranteeing Powers are agreed in laying down as bases of pacification the maintenance of the *status quo ante* in the Principalities of Servia and Montenegro, the military operations, which are at this moment being carried on there by the Ottoman troops, give rise to a useless effusion of blood.

As the carnage has latterly assumed proportions which wound the feelings of humanity without a possibility of any result being arrived at, the Emperor, my august master, cannot longer tolerate it, accompanied as it is by the delays which attend the negotiations for the conclusion of an armistice of limited length.

The Undersigned is therefore instructed to announce to the Sublime Porte, in the name of His Majesty, that if, in the space of forty-eight hours after the delivery of the present note, an effective and unconditional armistice of from six weeks to two months, embracing all the combatants, is not concluded, and if peremptory orders are not transmitted to the commanders of the Ottoman troops to immediately arrest all military operations, it will become his duty to leave Constantinople with the whole staff of the Imperial Embassy.

The Undersigned begs his Excellency Safvet Pasha to accept the personal expression of his high consideration.

(Signed) IGNATIEW

Inclosure 2 in No. 989.

Safvet Pasha to General Ignatiew.

Le 1 *Novembre*, 1876.

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, a eu l'honneur de recevoir la note que Son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies a bien voulu lui adresser en date du 31 Octobre.

Le Soussigné se fait un devoir empressé de déclarer avant tout que la Sublime Porte attache toujours le plus grand prix au maintien et à la consolidation des relations amicales qui existent si heureusement entre les deux Empires voisins, et qu'elle ne saurait avoir rien de plus à cœur que d'éviter tout ce qui serait de nature à y porter atteinte.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan déplore plus que personne les calamités de la guerre et l'effusion de sang. Il a cru donner une preuve de ses dispositions sincèrement pacifiques en proposant d'assigner en Serbie et au Monténégro un délai d'une longue durée à l'armistice désiré. Toutefois pour donner une nouvelle preuve de ses sentiments de conciliation et de sa déférence aux vœux exprimés par le Cabinet Impérial de St. Pétersbourg, comme par les autres Grandes Puissances, la Sublime Porte consent à la conclusion d'un armistice pur et simple de deux mois à partir d'aujourd'hui même. Elle vient en conséquence de transmettre des ordres aux Commandants des troupes Impériales pour arrêter immédiatement les opérations militaires sur tout le théâtre de la guerre. Pour ce qui est des détails relatifs à cet armistice le Soussigné se réserve de les régler plus tard d'accord avec votre Excellence et avec MM. les Représentants des autres Grandes Puissances Médiatrices.

En ayant l'honneur de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de Son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, le Soussigné saisit, &c.

(Translation.)

November 1, 1876.

THE Undersigned, Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, has had the honour to receive the note which his Excellency the Ambassador of His Majesty the Emperor of all Russia has had the goodness to address him, dated the 31st October.

The Undersigned hastens to declare before all things that the Sublime Porte ever attaches the greatest importance to the maintenance and consolidation of the friendly relations so happily existing between the two neighbouring Empires, and that it could have nothing more at heart than the avoidance of anything that might be likely to endanger those relations.

The Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan deplores more than any one the calamities of the war and the effusion of blood. It thought that it was giving a proof of its sincerely pacific disposition in proposing to fix in Servia and Montenegro a delay of a long duration for the desired armistice. However, to give a fresh proof of its conciliatory disposition, and of its deference to the wishes expressed by the Imperial Cabinet of St. Petersburgh, as well as by the other Great Powers, the Sublime Porte consents to the conclusion of an unconditional armistice of two months, to date from this very day. It has, in consequence, transmitted orders to the Commanders of the Imperial troops, to arrest immediately military operations throughout the whole theatre of the war. As for the details respecting this armistice, the Undersigned waits for the opportunity of settling these later, in concert with your Excellency and the Representatives of the other Great Mediating Powers.

While having the honour of bringing the above to the knowledge of his Excellency the Ambassador of His Majesty the Emperor of all Russia, the Undersigned seizes, &c.

No. 990.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 6, 1876.

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem respecting the alleged abduction of a Bulgarian girl by a Turkish soldier.

It appears that the inquiries instituted by the Governor of Jerusalem and Mr. Moore into this matter have hitherto been fruitless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 990.

Consul Moore to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Jerusalem, October* 19, 1876.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram relative to the case of abduction mentioned in the "Times," on the authority of Bishop Gobat, I have the honour to state that, as I reported by telegraph, the Bishop states, his information on the subject does not extend beyond having heard a group of people talking about it under his window.

It appears, however, that the report that a strange Christian woman had been brought to the country has existed here for two or three months.

I am continuing my own inquires, and the Governor, in consequence of orders from the Porte, is also investigating the matter, and has promised to let me know the result of his researches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL MOORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 990.

Consul Moore to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Jerusalem, October* 28, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th instant, I have the honour to report that the Governor of Jerusalem has addressed me a note stating that, after diligent search and inquiry on his part, no trace has been found of the abducted Bulgarian female said to have been brought to this district. His Excellency goes on, therefore, to request me to invite Bishop Gobat to write to the "Times" to contradict the story.

I have conveyed Faid Bey's request to his Lordship, who has so far complied, as to send a telegram to the above-named journal, stating that he has no personal knowledge of the matter and that the report has not been verified.

The non-success of the Governor's researches is not in itself conclusive of the falsity of the report in question; fear of the consequences on the part of those who might be able to give information, or the bought connivance of the authorities, might easily defeat the object in view.

I pursue my own inquiries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL MOORE.

No. 991.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 6, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the identic instruction agreed to by the Representatives of the Mediating Powers for the guidance of the Delegates sent to arrange the conditions of the armistice.

I also inclose copies of the letters by which I have forwarded it to the officers appointed by Her Majesty's Government upon this duty.

Much practical difficulty will, I imagine, be found in the execution of that part of the instructions which relates to the insurgent bands in Bosnia, which are under no recognized authority, but after the point which had been made of having them included within its provisions, the omission of all mention of them was not possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 991.

Identic Instructions to Military Commission for Arrangement of the Armistice.

Durée de l'Armistice.—L'armistice conclu, avec la médiation des Puissances Garantes, entre la Sublime Porte et les Gouvernements de Serbie et de Monténégro s'étend à toute la ligne des opérations militaires en cours d'exécution; il prend date du moment où l'ordre de suspendre les hostilités a été transmis aux commandants des forces Impériales Ottomanes, c'est-à-dire du 1er Novembre au soir. La durée de cet armistice étant de huit semaines, il se terminera partout, sauf décision ultérieure, le Mercredi, 28 Décembre, à minuit.

Composition de la Commission Arbitrale.—La Sublime Porte ayant, par son Mémorandum du 12 Octobre, fait appel aux dispositions bienveillantes des Puissances et sollicité la désignation de délégués militaires spéciaux chargés de régler les conditions pratiques de l'armistice, une Commission Arbitrale a été constituée à cet effet et devra se réunir aussi promptement que possible sur le théâtre des opérations. Cette Commission ne comprend, comme membres ayant voix délibérative, que les Délégués Militaires des Six Puissances Garantes; elle devra toutefois provoquer, dès sa première réunion, la désignation, par les Commandants des armées en présence d'un ou plusieurs officiers chargés de l'éclairer sur les points en discussion, elle les entendra concurremment ou séparément selon qu'elle le jugera nécessaire, mais ne les admettra pas à prendre part à ses délibérations.

Attributions de la Commission.—Les décisions seront prises à la majorité des voix;

elles seront communiqués par écrit aux officiers délégués près de la Commission, qui auront à en assurer la transmission immédiate à leurs quartiers généraux respectifs, la Commission ne devant se mettre verbalement et directement en rapport avec les Commandants-en-chef que dans des cas exceptionnels et pour insister, s'il était nécessaire, sur la prompte exécution de ses décisions. Toutes les fois que la Commission jugera nécessaire de faire des vérifications sur place ou de transmettre directement certains communications aux quartiers généraux, elle pourra déléguer à cet effet deux de ses membres nommés à la majorité des voix.

Dans le cas où les voix de la Commission se partagerait en nombre égal ou s'il survenait dans la mise en application de ses décisions, certains conflits avec les autorités militaires des armées en présence, elle devrait, après avoir épuisé tous les moyens de conciliation, en référer aux Représentants des Puissances à Constantinople, qui décideront en dernier ressort.

Les attributions de la Commission sont ainsi nettement définies; elle a pleins pouvoirs pour décider de toutes les questions d'ordre purement militaire, ne doit pas admettre la discussion de ses décisions et doit ne négliger aucun effort pour en assurer l'exécution immédiate et entière.

Ordres des Opérations.—Le premier devoir de la Commission est de déterminer aussi promptement que possible et avec la précision la plus scrupuleuse la ligne de démarcation entre les armées par l'indication de villages, accidents de terrain et autres points de repère. Elle s'appuiera, pour cette détermination, sur le principe fondamental de tout armistice, en vertu duquel les belligérants doivent conserver leurs positions respectives, sans oublier toutefois qu'étant donnée la nature irrégulière de certains des contingents et l'insuffisance des documents cartographiques, il importe d'éviter autant que possible de tracer des lignes fictives n'ayant pas leur expression dans un accident topographique nettement accusé et qui permettraient aux troupes, en cas de violation, d'arguer de leur ignorance.

Les armées en présence devront, de part et d'autre, laisser entre leurs avant-postes et la ligne générale de démarcation déterminée par la Commission, une zône neutre dont l'accès sera sevèrement interdit aux officiers et aux soldats; l'étendue de cette zône pourra varier selon les dispositions naturelles des localités, mais ne devra jamais être, de part et d'autre, inférieure à quatre kilomètres. Il ne sera fait d'exception à cette règle que dans les cas de nécessité absolue, comme, par exemple, pour laisser aux troupes la possibilité d'abreuver les animaux à un cours d'eau unique coulant dans la zône neutre; la Commission devra, dans ce cas, pour éviter tout conflit, fixer elle-même l'emplacement des points dont l'accès serait autorisé.

Itinéraire de la Commission.—La Commission se réunira d'abord sur la partie du théâtre des opérations où se trouvent en présence les forces les plus considérables, c'est-à-dire dans la haute Vallée de la Morava; elle s'établira, soit au quartier général de l'une ou l'autre armée, soit sur un point intermédiaire qui pourra être choisi dans la zône neutre.

Après avoir réglé les conditions pratiques de l'armistice pour les armées du Timok et de la Morava, elle gagnera, aussi promptement que possible, la frontière occidentale de la Principauté de Serbie et continuera ses opérations jusqu'au confluent de la Drina et de la Save.

La Commission devra profiter de son passage en Bosnie pour se préoccuper de la situation des habitants de quelques sandjaks de ce vilayet qui se sont mis en lutte avec le pouvoir Souverain. Pour satisfaire au désir unanime de l'Europe de mettre fin à l'effusion du sang, elle s'efforcera de localiser dans certains districts les restes de l'insurrection et d'obtenir des commandants des forces Impériales qu'il soit surcis à toute mesure militaire de repression, qui ne pourrait que réveiller les haines et rendre plus difficile la tâche pacifique entreprise par les Puissances. Si la Commission croyait devoir, à cet effet, se mettre en rapports directs avec quelques uns des chefs de l'insurrection, elle devrait veiller à assurer leur sécurité et tenir à honneur de faire scrupuleusement respecter le sauf conduit qui leur aurait été donné.

En résumé, chacun des membres de la Commission doit comprendre combien il importe à la dignité des Puissances de témoigner de l'équité et de l'impartialité la plus entière, de suivre rigoureusement les règles écrites ou traditionnelles du droit des gens et de n'admettre comme guides de ses décisions que les principes supérieurs de justice, d'ordre, et d'humanité.

(Translation.)

The Length of the Armistice.—The armistice concluded, with the mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers, between the Sublime Porte and the Governments of Servia and

Montenegro, extends to the whole line of military operations taking place at this moment. It dates from the moment when the order to suspend hostilities was transmitted to the commanders of the Imperial Ottoman forces, that is to say, from the evening of November the 1st. As the length of this armistice is eight weeks, it will everywhere terminate, if no further decision be come to, on Wednesday, December 28, at midnight.

Composition of the Commission of Arbitration.—The Sublime Porte having, in its Memorandum of October 12, appealed to the friendly disposition of the Powers, and requested the nomination of Special Military Delegates, charged with laying down the practical conditions of the armistice, a Commission of Arbitration has been formed for this purpose, and is to assemble as soon as possible on the scene of the operations. This Commission comprises, as voting members, only the military delegates of the Six Guaranteeing Powers; at the very first sitting, the Commanders of the opposing armies shall be invited to name one or more officers, charged with enlightening the Commission on the points under discussion; these officers will be heard either simultaneously or separately, as may be judged best, but will not be allowed to take part in the deliberations of the Commission.

Powers of the Commission.—The decisions will be made by a majority of votes. They will be communicated in writing to the officers appointed Delegates to the Commission, who will have to insure their immediate transmission to their respective head-quarters, as the Commission should not enter into verbal and direct relations with the Commanders-in-chief except in exceptional cases, and for the purpose, if necessary, of insisting on the prompt execution of its decisions. Whenever the Commission shall judge it necessary to verify any facts on the spot, or to transmit direct some communications to the head-quarters, it can delegate for this purpose two of its members, who shall be named by a majority of votes.

In the case of the votes of the Commission on any question being equal, or if, in the execution of its decisions, some conflict were to take place with the military authorities of the contending armies, it should, after having exhausted all conciliatory means, refer the case to the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople, who will make the final decision.

Thus the functions of the Commission are clearly defined; it has full powers to decide all questions of a purely military nature, should not admit of its decisions being discussed, and should neglect no effort to insure their immediate and complete execution.

Orders of Operations.—The first duty of the Commission will be to determine as quickly as possible, and with the most scrupulous precision, the line of demarcation between the armies, indicating it by villages, irregularities of the ground, and other marks.

It will base this determination on the fundamental principle of every armistice, by virtue of which the belligerents should retain their respective positions, bearing in mind, however, that, with the knowledge of the irregular nature of some of the contingents, and the lack of map material, it is of importance, as far as possible, to avoid tracing fictitious lines, which cannot be recognized by some topographical irregularity clearly acknowledged, and which would permit of troops, in case of an infringement, to plead ignorance.

The armies on the ground should, on both sides, leave between their outposts and the general line of demarcation determined by the Commission, a neutral zone, access to which is to be strictly forbidden to both officers and men. The extent of this zone may vary according to the natural disposition of the locality, but should never be, on either side, of less extent than 4 kilometres. The only exception to this rule will be in a case of absolute necessity, as, for example, to make it possible for the troops to water their animals at a stream flowing through the neutral zone; in such a case the Commission should, to avoid all chance of conflict, itself fix the spots to which access will be authorized.

Itinerary of the Commission.—The Commission will first meet on that part of the scene of the operations where the forces are in the greatest numbers, that is to say, in the upper valley of the Morava. It will take up its quarters either at the head-quarters of one or the other army, or at some intermediate point, which may be selected in the neutral zone.

After settling practically the conditions of the armistice for the armies of the Timok and the Morava, it will proceed as soon as possible to the western frontier of the Principality of Servia, and will continue its operations as far as the juncture of the Drina and the Save.

The Commission should take advantage of its passage through Bosnia to pay attention to the position of the inhabitants of some of the sandjaks of this vilayet who have taken part in the struggle against the Sovereign Power. To satisfy the unanimous desire of Europe to put a stop to the effusion of blood, it will endeavour to localize in certain districts the remains of the insurrection, and to obtain assurances from the commanders of the Imperial forces that they will forego all military measures of suppression, which could only

re-awaken hatred, and render more difficult the task of pacification undertaken by the Powers. If the Commission think it advisable, with this object, to put itself into direct communication with some of the Chiefs of the insurrection, it should be careful to insure their safety, and should make it a point of honour to cause the safe-conduct which would be given them to be scrupulously respected.

To sum up, each member of the Commission should understand how important it is for the dignity of the Powers to show the most entire equity and impartiality, to follow rigorously the rules either written or traditional of the law of nations, and to allow nothing to guide their decisions but the highest principles of justice, order, and humanity.

Inclosure 2 in No. 991.

*Sir H. Elliot to Major-General Sir A. Kemball.**

Sir, *Constantinople, November* 6, 1876.

I INCLOSE a copy of the identic instructions which have been drawn up for the guidance of the members of the Commission upon which Her Majesty's Government have nominated you for arranging the details of the armistice to be observed upon the whole field of the late hostilities.

It is unnecessary to me to add anything to them, as I prefer leaving your course as little fettered as possible by minute instructions, so that you should be free to act upon your own discretion and judgment.

In the event of any infraction of the armistice by any of the late belligerents coming to your knowledge, I have to request you at once to telegraph the circumstances to me in order that representations may be made in the proper quarter, and at the same time to protest against them in the strongest manner to the military commanders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 991.

Sir H. Elliot to Colonel Lennox.

Sir, *Constantinople, November* 6, 1876.

I INCLOSE a copy of the identic instructions which have been drawn up for the guidance of the members of the Commission, upon which Her Majesty's Government have nominated you for arranging the details of the armistice to be observed upon the whole field of the late hostilities. It is unnecessary for me to add anything to them, as I prefer leaving your course as little fettered as possible by minute instructions, so that you should be free to act upon your own discretion and judgment.

The latter part of the instructions which contains the itinerary to be followed is intended for the Delegates proceeding to arrange the armistice between the Porte and Servia, and is not applicable to you, as your duties will be confined to the arrangement to be made with Montenegro.

On arriving at Ragusa, where you will meet your colleagues, you will concert with them as to your proceedings.

In the event of any infraction of the armistice by any of the late belligerents coming to your knowledge, I have to request you at once to telegraph the circumstances to me, in order that representations may be made in the proper quarter, and at the same time to protest against them in the strongest manner to the military Commanders.

I inclose the bouyourouldi, or travelling order, which you will require while on Turkish territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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* An identic note was addressed to Major Gonne.

No. 992.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 7, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two further reports which have been addressed to me by Mr. Baring respecting the proceedings of the Commission at Philippopolis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 992.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, October* 30, 1876.

WITH reference to my previous despatches, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Batak and Dervent cases are still being examined by the Commissioners, the latter having only made very slight progress. The former has advanced more rapidly, the interrogatory of Achmet Agha being pretty well completed.

As far as one can judge at present the two persons most deeply implicated next to Achmet Agha are Achmet Tchaoush, of Kara Boulak and Bektach Metto; the latter was examined on the 27th instant, the principal witness against him being a woman, Sofia Kankovitza.

A man named Kullhuk Halil has also been arrested for the Batak affair, extortion of money being the principal charge against him.

I regret to say that the son of Achmet Agha, who is undoubtedly guilty of the most horrid crimes, has not been arrested, and he is in hiding somewhere in the district of Drama.

Three other criminals, Adil Agha, Ismail Agha, and Deli Mahmet, who destroyed the villages of Borecou and Dedovo are also not forthcoming, though orders for their arrest have been issued.

I cannot say that in my opinion the progress of the Commission is satisfactory; six weeks about have elapsed since it left Constantinople, a very short time was spent in visiting a portion of the scene of the atrocities, and the rest has been occupied with the interrogatories here. Numbers of persons have been examined, reams of paper have been covered with depositions, but no result has been arrived at, and nothing has been decided. Had matters been arranged better I have no hesitation in saying that the Batak affair at least might have been finished by this time, and considerable progress made with that of Dervent.

It is a surprising fact that the Commission has not yet decided whether the Batak massacre was a crime or not. This question has been discussed, and the three Christian members and Hamid Bey are of opinion that the word should be adopted in the Minutes. The chief opponent of this sensible view is Ismail Bey, who, though a member of the so-called "Jeune Turquie" party and a man who is supposed to have some enlightenment, has evidently set himself the task of clearing the Turkish authorities, and, if possible, the Bashi-Bazouks too, from all blame.

In furtherence of this object he never loses an opportunity of trying to prove that the inhabitants of Batak and Dervent were killed in fair fight, and maintains the absurd theory put forward by Edil Effendi, that the Bulgarians themselves burnt all the villages, and not the Bashi-Bazouks.

Were the existence of crime once formally acknowledged, it would be by no means a difficult task to prove the criminality of the accused, but until the Mussulman members make up their minds to admit this most undoubted fact, the Commission is simply working in the dark.

The principal point which the Mussulman members are striving might and main to prove, is that a serious and widespread insurrection existed. No one, to my knowledge, wishes to deny that a portion of the population rose in revolt, the charge brought against the Turks being not that they had suppressed an insurrection, but that they had stamped it out with reckless barbarity, and that they punished the innocent and guilty alike. Six months have now elapsed since the suppression of the revolt, and about 100 persons have been hanged for participation in it; it seems rather late for the Turkish authorities to send a Commission whose chief duty is to prove that an insurrection existed.

As regards the rebuilding of the houses and the restoration of the lost property, the Commission has not, as yet, done as much as it might in the time.

It has appointed two persons, Turks of Philippopoli, to inspect the villages of this Caza, and see to the rebuilding of houses; one of them, Hafiz Nowri Effendi, is, I believe, an honourable man, but the other, Mehmet Hodjazadi, bears a most abominable reputation.

In the district of Tatar-Bazardjik, thirty-four villages have been divided among eight of the notables, Christain and Mussulman. The person appointed to inspect six of them is Ali Bey, a fanatic of the worst description, who has fattened on the spoils of the Bulgarian villages destroyed during the insurrection, and who is the terror of the Christians of Bazardjik. The Turks of Bazardjik are notorious for fanaticism and other bad qualities, but Ali Bey surpasses them all in vindictiveness, licentiousness and dishonesty, and his appointment to a post of trust is a disgrace to the Commission.

His misdeeds are well known, and he should be put on his trial immediately, together with his nephew Mehmet Ali Bey.

When I pointed out that this man was hardly fitted for the duty entrusted to him, I was told though there were charges against him, no one could be found who would be likely to do the work better.

The firstfruits of this newly constituted body of inspectors I saw the other day, when two men from two small villages near Bazardjik came and complained that each village had been called upon to furnish gratis 800 planks.

That the Turkish Treasury will provide the money required there is no doubt, but I should be very sorry to guarantee that any large portion of it will be applied to relieve distress, when such a scoundrel as Ali Bey is entrusted with its distribution.

The village where, I believe, most has been done is Peroustiza; when I visited the place on the 15th instant the Government building was stopped from want of wood, but I now hear that supplies have been sent and that a fair number of houses have been roofed in.

An official report addressed to the Commission, and which I heard read yesterday, speaks of 100 houses at Batak as completely finished; if this is the true state of the case great activity must have been displayed, as Lady Strangford, who visited the place about a week ago, found only fifteen workmen, and hardly a house roofed in.

Mr. Clarke, who has been to Dobrunista, the village in the Caza of Nevrokop, said to have been burnt by Bashi-Bazouks returning from the war, and about which Mr. Calvert has reported to your Excellency, is expected here to-morrow and will be able to give reliable information as to what the authorities have really done at Batak.

A sum of 56,500 piastres in " caimés " have been distributed among three burnt villages destroyed during the insurrection in the Bazardjik district in the following proportions :—

	Piastres.
Radilovo, Bulgarian, 165 houses	15,000
Ali Hodja, 70 houses	7,500
Bega, Turkish houses, 54	18,000
Ditto, Christian houses, 65 houses	16,000

I am told that this money has not been given by the Commission, but is part of 7,000 Turkish pounds sent from Constantinople previous to its arrival here, and has been distributed in the shape of loans.

I believe that the larger portion of the women and children carried off from Batak have now been returned to their homes, though there are still some at and about Nevrokop which, being in the vilayet of Salonica, is not within the jurisdiction of the Philippopolis authorities. Much stolen property would also be found in the neighbouring vilayet, if a proper search were made, as a large body of Bashi-Bazouks came from Nevrokup to attack Batak.

Some Circassians and others have lately made a raid in the neighbourhood of Otloukeui. Two companies of infanty have consequently been despatched to the village, and some cavalry have been sent to patrol the roads.

The Commission has decided to recommend the establishment of three new Kaïmakamliks, viz., at Carlovo, Avrat Alan, and Serokala. The second of these villages is a purely Christian village, and at Otloukeui, which is close to it, there is not a single Turk, but I regret to say that it has not been thought necessary for that reason to appoint a Christian Kaïmakam.

A Kaïmakam should also be appointed at Stamnaka, a large village four hours from this place, containing 2,500 houses and some 10,000 inhabitants, where there

is now only a Mudir, who cannot settle any claim above one of 40 piastres, the consequence being that the inhabitants of the district have to travel to Philippopolis in order to have the smallest matters settled by the Tribunals.

With reference to the outrages at Wradje, which I reported to your Excellency in my despatch of the 13th instant, I asked Saadoulah Bey whether any inquiry would be held respecting the occurrences north of the Balkans, but I was informed in reply that the Commission had not the power to extend its inquiries into the vilayet of the Danube.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 992.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, November* 1, 1876.

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the statement I made respecting the functions of Ali Bey and other notables of Tatar Bazardjik in my despatch of the 30th ultimo is not altogether correct.

I had understood clearly from Ismail Bey the other day that the task of seeing to the rebuilding of the houses had been entrusted to these men, and I consequently thought that they would receive the funds necessary for carrying on their work. From a subsequent conversation, however, I gathered that the money will remain in the hands of the Building Commission at Bazardjik, and that Ali Bey and his colleagues will act as inspectors to see that the work is properly carried on, that the neighbouring villages give the requisite help, and that workmen are provided. Ali Bey, on account of his influence, is supposed to be peculiarly well-suited for these duties, and, no doubt, if the Commission wished to select a man whose name would inspire terror in the hearts of the Bulgarians a most admirable selection has been made. No man would understand better the imposition of forced labour, and dread of his vengeance will be quite enough to keep any Bulgarian from making a complaint respecting exactions or non-fulfilment of promises.

I am not aware what meaning exactly Ismail Bey attaches to the word "influential"; if he means a man who, from a course of ill-doing and oppression has made himself feared and hated by all, and for this reason can impose his will on a population which knows it has no redress against him, then Ali Bey undoubtedly deserves the title; but if, on the contrary, he means a man who has earned the respect of his fellow-men, and to whom his inferiors can look for aid and protection, the epithet in question could hardly be applied to the individual whose name I have, unfortunately, had so often to mention.

I am anxious, for the sake of accuracy, to correct the slight mistake I made in my above-mentioned despatch, but I do not think that the appointment of Ali Bey is one atom the less objectional on account of this small difference in his duties.

On my speaking again to Ismail Bey on the subject to-day, he tried to make out that the nomination of Ali Bey to this post of inspector could not be taken as a proof of confidence, as he was not in the receipt of Government pay; he said that the man had been useful to the authorities on more occasions than one, and the impression left no my mind by his remarks was that no action would be taken against him, as the Government was afraid of making itself too disagreeable to men of his class.

Pertev Effendi has arrived to try the remaining Bulgarian prisoners, who have now been in prison since May.

The Commission has been occupied to-day and yesterday with the examination of Tossoun Bey, the illness of Achmet Agha preventing his case from being continued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 993.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 7, 1876.*

I HAVE forwarded to your Lordship copies of Mr. Baring's reports, giving a very unsatisfactory account of the proceedings of the Commission at Philippopolis.

The substance of them has been communicated to the Porte, and I have had several serious conversations with the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and Safvet Pasha, in which I protested in the strongest terms against the apparent indisposition of the Commission to allow the charges to be brought home to the persons whose conduct during the late insurrection was arraigned.

The matter was in consequence brought before the Ministerial Council, and a whole sitting having been devoted to the subject, the result was the despatch of an order to Ismail Bey, one of the members of the Commission, to come to Constantinople to give explanations, and to receive instructions.

In a conversation with Safvet Pasha two days ago, in which I again spoke of the illusory character of the proceedings, I told him I had serious thoughts of recalling Mr. Baring from Philippopolis, as I was not disposed to appear to countenance them by the presence of a member of Her Majesty's Embassy.

He begged me not to take that step, saying that Ismail Bey was expected to arrive the same day, and that I should have reason to be satisfied.

I said it was impossible to be satisfied as long as we saw a person with such accusations against him as those against Chefket Pasha continuing apparently to enjoy the confidence of the Government without any inquiry being made into his conduct.

Safvet Pasha answered that the Commission had hitherto been occupied by the occurrences in a part of the country distant from Boyadji Keui, but that Chefket Pasha's conduct would be rigidly examined, when it came to inquire what had taken place there.

I have to-day had a visit from Ismail Bey, from whom I did not conceal that the Commission to which he belonged was not proceeding in a manner to inspire confidence, and I said he would be doing bad service to his Government and his country if it did not act with proper vigour.

He justified the dilatory proceedings of the Commission by the difficulty of getting trustworthy evidence; and, in reply to the charge of endeavouring to shield the accused, he said the mass of groundless accusations required careful examination of the witnesses.

He fully admitted that great crimes having been committed, there were, as a matter of course, great criminals who must be punished, and the Commission would do its duty properly in regard to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 994.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 7, 1876.*

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Blunt's despatch to your Lordship of the 1st instant, respecting the women and children from Batak detained in the vilayet of Salonica, I have the honour to inform you that I have brought the circumstances mentioned in it under the notice of Safvet Pasha, who has promised to encourage the Governor-General to continue the exertions he seems to be making for the recovery of any of these people still retained in his province, and also to take the steps which may be requisite respecting the Mutessarif of Drama.

I reminded his Excellency that a Proclamation of the Grand Vizier's had announced that the severest penalties would be inflicted upon any persons retaining Bulgarians from the devastated districts, and as such cases had evidently occurred, I trusted that the guilty parties would be proceeded against.

I have also written to Mr. Blunt to urge the Governor-General to take measures for the punishment of these persons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 995.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of Mr. Sandison's report of a conversation with the Grand Vizier after the communication to the Porte of the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference to be held at Constantinople.

This morning, by desire of the Grand Vizier, Safvet Pasha called upon me to set forth all the objections felt by the Porte to the course proposed.

The Porte had already expressed itself unwilling to consent that the measures to be promulgated for the government of the insurgent provinces should be embodied in a Protocol, but a Conference must end by an act of that nature, or perhaps by something still more formal in the shape of a Convention.

A fatal blow would be struck at the authority and independence of the Porte by a recognition of the right of foreign Governments to interfere in the internal administration of the country; the IXth Article of the Treaty of Paris would be deliberately torn up, and the Imperial Government trusted that Great Britain was still sufficiently a friend to Turkey not to insist upon a measure which must have this result.

The Porte was labouring day and night in drawing up the reforms which would ensure to the whole country the securities which Her Majesty's Government had asked for certain provinces only, and it would be but the commonest act of justice to allow them to be produced, before the Powers insist upon taking the matter out of the hands of the Imperial Government.

He asked me whether Her Majesty's Government did not consider that the measures already announced would give what had been demanded for the provinces.

If Her Majesty's Government held them to be insufficient, and wished to suggest alterations, the Porte would pay every attention to their recommendations, and would willingly amend the projects as far as was practicable, but, with a view to the maintenance of the authority of the Imperial Government, which is indispensable for the administration of the country, it was essential that everything done for the populations should be done on the initiative of the Porte, and not on that of foreign Governments, to which all the discontented throughout the Empire would be for the future taught to look.

I told the Minister that it was out of the question for Her Majesty's Government to retract the proposal for a Conference which had already been made to all the Powers, and generally acceded to by them.

It had, however, been made by Her Majesty's Government in no spirit of hostility to the Porte, but quite the reverse.

There was a wish in certain quarters for a Conference at which the Porte should not be represented, but which should meet and concert measures to be imposed upon it.

Her Majesty's Government had come forward and prevented any such proposition from being formally made by inviting a Conference, in which the Porte should take part, and upon bases much more favourable than would otherwise have been suggested.

I understood much of the repugnance felt by the Porte, but, as a Conference must certainly take place, I hoped it would show no hesitation in assenting to it, for if Turkey should decline, the proposal to proceed independently of her would certainly be made.

With regard to the abrogation of the IXth Article of the Treaty of Paris, which his Excellency thought likely to result from it, I observed to him that the engagement of the Powers to abstain from interference in the internal administration of this country was taken on the faith of engagements entered into by the Porte which had not been carried out.

Safvet Pasha answered that he must admit the Porte to have given the Powers too much ground for this argument during the reign of Sultan Abdul Aziz, but no doubt could be entertained of the sincerity of the present Sovereign to carry out the measures that had been promised, but of which the execution had hitherto been rendered impossible by the insurrection and war prevailing in the provinces.

I said that some of these measures could certainly not be applied in the disturbed districts, but there were others, and very important ones, which could as certainly have been carried out.

There was no reason, for instance, why Christian Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams

should not have been named in Christian districts, nor why a Christian police should not have been established in them.

It was late in the day, but if the Porte would take my advice it should, without waiting for the formation of Provincial and other Councils, and the other measures which require time and consideration, at once begin giving a practical application to the principles it professed to have adopted.

It should apply them to the Greek as well as to the Slav Provinces, and when the Conference meets it might still be possible to point to acts as evidence that a new system was already being inaugurated, instead of having to rely merely upon promises of which the Powers had become distrustful.

Safvet Pasha promised to advocate the adoption of this suggestion with the Grand Vizier, to whom he would communicate all I had said, though it would be a great disappointment to his Highness to find that I considered a Conference to be unavoidable.

There is little likelihood of the Porte refusing to agree to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT

Inclosure in No. 995.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Pera, November* 7, 1876.

THE Grand Vizier spoke to-day with considerable uneasiness of the Conference to be held at Constantinople as proposed by Her Majesty's Government. His Highness, who is not less apprehensive than his colleagues of the political dangers supposed to attend Turkey in the event of a Conference, cannot, he said, see in it the way to a solution of the pending questions without exciting dangerous discontent in the country and greatly diminishing the Sultan's prestige and authority in European Turkey. A country which has passively submitted to no other will than that of the Sovereign, and which has for centuries been governed on these principles—a country, in fact, where the authority of the law has never been properly established and felt by the people, and one which, though peopled by so many different races and nationalities, has nevertheless been taught to acknowledge and respect but the Imperial authority—cannot, his Highness continued, be expected to remain for the future in the same state of submission the day that the Sultan was made to relinquish his prestige and authority over certain provinces of his Empire. Successive insurrections were, he greatly apprehended, sure to break out throughout the country if an exceptional position was created for Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, by means of what is called "local or administrative autonomy." Then with regard to guarantees, the time is past, he added, for the Government to proclaim reforms and not actually carry them out; and he felt certain that the Porte would now take special care to apply to the insurgent provinces the reforms lately edicted for all parts of the Empire.

I begged his Highness would recollect how Europe had been taught by experience to distrust repeated promises, the non-fulfilment of which had naturally so shaken the confidence of almost all the European Governments that nothing short of satisfactory guarantees would now satisfy them, and that it was therefore difficult to see how these could either be offered or accepted without a Conference. The whole question, I ventured to add, connected with the insurgent provinces, could not be safely discussed except in a Conference, which, under present circumstances, was, perhaps, the only means of preventing isolated action on the part of Russia, and that it was, therefore, far safer for the Porte to submit to the award of a Conference than expose itself to the danger of being left to the tender mercies of Russia, which, at this moment at least, showed little inclination for forbearance and reconciliation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 996.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 9, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two further reports which I have received from Sir A. Kemball on the military operations in the Morava Valley.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 996.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters, Camp before Alexinatz, October 23, 1876.*

THE subjoined telegrams (A to E inclusive) will have acquainted your Excellency with the advance of this force in the direction of Djunis, for the purpose of obtaining the command of the roads meeting at that point, and with a view also of turning the enemy's position at Deligrad. The hesitation of the Servian Government to accede to the Porte's proposal for a prolonged armistice appears to have determined Ahmed Ayoub Pasha, after personal consultation with the Serdar Ekrem at Nisch, to abandon the defensive attitude he had observed since the 1st of September last.

The attack commenced at daylight on the morning of the 19th instant, by a general advance of the Turkish brigades which had hitherto faced the Servian position in our rear, but which, from the change of assumed objective from Alexinatz to Djunis, may now be held to form the Turkish front line; and so completely was the enemy taken by surprise, that his advanced defences, consisting of numerous well-constructed batteries and redoubts, which constituted the main strength of his position, were successively abandoned after a feeble struggle. So persistent was the assault of the Turkish forces, that before 3 P.M. they had carried the whole range of heights opposed to them, except only the crest of a long spur on the right, where the Servians maintained their defence, until night put an end to offensive operations. The occupation of this crest, defended as it was by a redoubt, and commanded by a battery on the adjoining range, being essential to a further advance, the whole of the following day (20th) was spent by the right brigade in the attempt to carry it; but by this time the Servians, having obtained reinforcements, the repeated efforts of the Turkish troops were unavailing. Nevertheless, the progress made by them both along the ridge and on its southern slope having rendered it untenable against a further attack in the morning, the Turks continuing to hold the ground they had gained, it was abandoned by the Servians during the night. On the 21st the general attack was resumed with scarcely more opposition than on the 19th (the Servians being supported only during the later part of the day by the artillery of the distant batteries on their last line of heights on the northern side of the valley of the Djuniska, the Turks by the mountain guns attached to their several brigades), and ended by the former being completely driven off the intermediate spurs and crests up to the base of the said line, leaving the large villages of Kavnik and Velliki Siljegovatz, beside other minor villages, at the mercy of the latter.

Owing to the character of the country, which consisted of successive ranges of heights, varying from 300 to 500 feet, covered with forest trees, the inferior Servian troops were enabled to offer a more protracted resistance than without such shelter could certainly have been expected of them; for wherever open spaces afforded a glimpse of the combat, their retirement before the Turks bore rather the appearance of a stampede than a regular retreat. As usual, the Servians succeeded, by their rapid movements, in carrying off all their guns, which, after these had been withdrawn from the shelter of the batteries, were not again employed, nor, indeed, did the nature of the ground admit of their being easily brought into action. The advanced redoubts were protected by mines at a distance of about 200 yards on the line of approach, which was here further defended by *chevaux de frise* and felled trees. The road also was mined between Kavnik and Siljegovatz, but, owing to want of time or to miscalculation, these mines were not sprung at all, or exploded inopportunely, the wires connecting them with the electric batteries in the former case being afterwards discovered and cut by the Turks.

The better to explain the movements above described I beg to annex a sketch

map extracted from the "Times," on which I have marked the positions taken up by the Turks on the three days referred to, viz.:—

a b—Position before 19th.
c d—Advance on 19th.
e g, h i—Advance on 21st.
e g f—Position on 22nd, after the withdrawal of the left brigade from *g h i* on evening 21st.
k—Head-quarters, exposed to shells from enemy's battery at *tête-de-pont,* withdrawn to *l* on 21st.
m n—Enemy's position on night of 21st.

I estimate the Turkish forces actually engaged at from 12,000 to 15,000 men, exclusive of reserves, and the Servian forces at conjecturally the same strength. I must not omit to mention that, on the 16th instant, this army was reinforced by four complete battalions from Nisch.

I have nothing to add to my telegram D respecting the villages burnt by the Bashi-Bazouks. These irregulars are wholly uncontrollable, and, so long as they are employed in the field, they will continue by such acts to reflect discredit on the Turkish army. They are acknowledged by the superior officers to be useless as fighting men, and since they cannot be induced to enlist on the same terms as the volunteers for the war, the only alternative seems to lie in their summary ejection from the camp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

P.S.—I ought to have mentioned in my despatch above that, on the right brigade occupying the spur which overlooks Kavnik, the Servians made an attack in force in order to check the advance of the Turks and allow time for the complete evacuation of the village. We had observed, as we thought, near one of the houses, the Sisters of Charity attached to the Servian ambulances. Your Excellency will probably not regret to hear, therefore, that the attack was quite successful in its object.

A. B. K.

Telegram (A.)

October 19.

Thursday, 9 P.M.—Turks attacked and captured redoubts and batteries enemy's position in the rear as far as Djunis; fighting lasted all day. Continual rain during the day. Operations very probably resumed to-morrow morning, turn Deligrad. Small loss.

Telegram (B.)

October 20.

Friday, 10 P.M.—Division Hafiz Pasha only advanced to-day, gaining ground after hard fighting; enemy's position very strong. Operations will be resumed to-morrow morning.

Telegram (C.)

Please ask Consul Belgrade tell Marie Kosminichna, nurse sick and wounded, division Horvatovich, husband Nicolai Petrovich, prisoner of war, safe and well. Wishes her come Constantinople.

Telegram (D.)

October 21.

Saturday, 9 P.M.—Turks completely successful. Servians driven from all their positions left side Morava River, except heights overhanging Deligrad, and covering Djunis cross-roads. Victory tarnished by partial destruction villages by Bashi-Bazouks, in spite of most strict orders given at my instance on field; six defaulters will be severely punished; one, who threatened life Aziz Pasha, will be, I hope, shot. No outrages, villages deserted. Small loss. Operations will be resumed to-morrow

morning unless rain heavy. Fifteen prisoners three days, including two Russian officers, one Servian Captain.

Telegram (E.)

October 22.

Sunday, 9 P.M.—Rain too heavy for operations to-day. Front henceforth Djunis. Right front maintained, left front retired to position taken first day for strategic reasons. Enemy quiet, may have retreated last height overhanging Deligrad.

Inclosure 2 in No. 996.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters, Camp before Alexinatz, October* 30, 1876.

I HAVE little to add to the subjoined five telegrams, forwarded by me to your Excellency, since the date of my despatch of the 23rd instant.

The principal feature of the fight yesterday consisted in the advance of the right and centre divisions of the Turkish line of attack, along the two crests leading to the superior heights, which formed the main and last position of the Servians on the left side of the valley of the Morava, overhanging Deligrad. These crests were fortified by three batteries and numerous entrenchments, and might be regarded as the out-works of the *enciente* behind. On the crest to the right, while the Turks were employed in climbing the slopes, the Servians were enabled to deliver their fire almost unmolested, but no sooner had the former approached within a distance of 200 yards, than the latter were seen to quit their intrenchments with the utmost precipitation, and in lieu of retiring on their main works to take down the opposite slopes, and across the plain on their way to the bridges over the Morava. For once, Nedjib Pasha, chief of staff, who commanded this division (for the day) brought up his guns to support the attack of his infantry, and so materially contributed to the result above described. The further advance of the two right divisions was characterized throughout by the same laches of the enemy. Their retreat was a stampede, and before 2 P.M., they had abandoned the whole of their works, with 11 guns (7 field and 4 mountain guns) into the hands of the Turks. The left and left-centre divisions having to recover the ground from which they had withdrawn on the night of the 21st instant, and also to traverse a considerable tract of wooded country to the left of the valley of the Djuniska, before they could gain the base of the enemy's position, had scarcely reached the parallel of Djunis on the heights beyond, when the success of the right division put an end to the contest, and by cutting off the retreat of the Servian right towards Deligrad, necessarily compelled it to fall back precipitately upon Krushevatz, by the only road left open to it. The Servian loss was chiefly inflicted by the fire to which they were exposed during their retreat from post to post. A very considerable number also fell under the sabres of cavalry posted in the valley of the Djuniska to intercept their flight. The loss of the Turks is estimated at between 30 and 40 killed and 300 wounded. The attacking force was between 15,000 and 18,000 strong, including the reserves.

The Turks now hold all the country between the valleys of the Morava and the Djuniska, as well as the heights to the west of the latter valley covering the road to Krushevatz.

I proceeded this morning to the head-quarters of the Turkish left division, distance ten miles from general head-quarters, in order to assist at the occupation of Krushevatz, but only to find that this movement had been countermanded. Time, it seems, had not sufficed for the necessary preparations, and had led accordingly to the march upon Krushevatz being delayed until to-morrow, and the attack of Alexinatz until the following day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

Telegram (A.)

Monday, 5 P.M.—To-day right brigades slightly advanced; left brigade employed feeling for the enemy in its front towards Krushevatz Road. Enemy has evacuated

Djunis and inferior heights covering that village, but still occupies superior crest overhanging Deligrad.

Telegram (B.)

Tuesday, 7 P.M.—All quiet to-day. Line of operations apparently changed. Further advance on either cross roads from Djunis suspended. Heavy guns ordered from Nisch. Object conjectured to gain better footing in respect to conditions of armistice. New position inconveniently distant for commissariat.

Telegram (C.)

Saturday, 6 P.M.—Nothing to report last four days. Turks have reverted to original line of operations, in the direction of Deligrad, Krushevatz, and will attack enemy's position on superior heights on this side Morava River, overhanging Deligrad, to-morrow morning, if bad weather ceases. Attack Alexinatz not abandoned but deferred. Morava River swollen; ground and roads very bad.

Telegram (D.)

Sunday, 6 P.M.—Complete Turkish victory; whole enemy's position left side Morava River captured, with eleven guns. Servian losses severe, including many foreigners. Turkish, small loss. Enemy's position of extraordinary strength, natural and artificial, literally taken with a run. Servian stampede.

Telegram (E.)

Monday, 7 A.M.—To-day Krushevatz will be occupied. To-morrow Alexinatz will be attempted.

No. 997.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 9, 1876.

MR. WHITE has forwarded to your Lordship copies of his despatches to me of the 23rd September and of the 6th ultimo, inclosing communications from the Servian Government on the subject of excesses alleged to have been committed by the Turkish troops upon Servian territory.

Sir Arnold Kemball, to whom I referred these despatches, has commented upon them in the reports of which I have the honour to inclose copies, and which I have also transmitted to Mr. White.

I also instructed Mr. Dragoman Marinich to communicate to the Porte Mr. White's despatch of the 23rd ultimo, and the Minister of War has now declared to him that the inquiries which have been made prove that the alleged atrocities were never committed, and that the greatest vigilance is exercised by Special Military Commissioners to prevent such acts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 997.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Nish, October* 26, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive, on the 17th instant, your Excellency's despatch of the 9th instant, inclosing a despatch from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, of 23rd September, respecting outrages by Turkish soldiers; but owing to

to my preoccupation in camp, and the inquiries which the subject entailed, I have been unable up to this date to reply to it.

With regard to the first case, I am not in a position, on the evidence that is available, to affirm or deny the facts stated. That the Circassians, after the rout of the Servian army, on the night of the 1st September, did alone carry the pursuit with a view to plunder much in advance of the Turkish force, and did probably kill every Servian they encountered, until stopped by the fire of a body of infantry which rallied in good order, cannot, I believe, be questioned; but their practice being, I fear, in the general case to refuse quarter, I am at a loss to explain why, in this instance, they should have spared the man's life after deliberately mutilating him in the manner described.

I take this opportunity to mention that, assuming the correctness of the cause assigned, viz., the sight of the cross on the amputated arm, I have myself suggested that the surgeons of the Red Cross Society serving here who had suppressed their badges on the ground of supposed offence to Mahometans, should immediately resume them in token of their non-combatant duties, and my suggestion to this effect has been complied with.

With respect to the second case, the circumstantial details appear to afford internal evidence adverse to the reality of the alleged occurrence; there are no Egyptian troops of any description with the Turkish expeditionary corps in the valley of the Morava, much less Egyptian cavalry (regulars). Again, this corps has never lost or abandoned any ground it has taken up since the 1st of September, and on the 2nd and 3rd September no offensive operations were undertaken by it beyond the limits then reached. It is to be regretted that Mr. Villiers, the Special Artist of the "Graphic," was not invited to state more precisely the time and place of the atrocity he depicted. It must have occurred within the enemy's lines to enable Mr. Villiers to view the bodies, and these, the Turks assert, having been beyond their reach at any time, seeing that the outposts of the two armies have since been within rifle range of each other, must have been placed in the posture described (with the ropes uninjured by the fire which had been employed to roast the wounded Servians by their Russo-Servian enemy for special illustration, to an obvious end. Be this as it may, the circumstances cited need to be fortified by testimony of a more precise character before they can carry conviction to an impartial mind.

The third crime of which the Turkish troops are accused is one of which, unhappily, I am least disposed to question the reality. We cannot doubt the evidence of parallel cases in greater or less number which have been elsewhere certified since the beginning of the revolutionary movement in the Christian provinces of Turkey; but occurring, as it is said to have done, at so great a distance as Yankova Klissura, and at a period antecedent to my joining this camp, I have been unable to discover any clue to its perpetration, or to form a judgment upon it.

I should add that the Red Cross surgeons who accompanied Colonel Loyd-Lindsay to Deligrad prior to their coming with him to the Turkish camp, viâ Widdin and Nisch, had heard these three cases of outrage spoken of in the Servian lines, but they had themselves no personal knowledge of their occurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 997.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters, Camp before Alexinatz, November* 1, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive yesterday morning your Excellency's despatch dated 24th October.

With respect to General Tchernaiff's report to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Belgrade, which formed Inclosure 1, I must refer your Excellency to the remarks in my despatch of the 26th October, as applying in its main features to the case of outrage therein cited.

On the 1st August the Turkish troops under Ahmed Eyoub Pasha had entered the passes of Gramada and Panderola.

The Turkish troops under Ali Saib Pasha had not yet reached Nish from Mitrovitza on their way to invade the valley of the Morava.

Ahmed Eyoub Pasha's corps did not leave Kniazewatz (Gurgussovatz) for many

days after the capture of that town, and did not join the corps of Ali Saib Pasha before Alexinatz until the 19th or 20th August.

I am quite unable, therefore, to identify the ground which is described by General Tchernaieff as one on which " nos troupes, après avoir repris à l'ennemi une position, abandonnée la veille, trouvèrent, &c.;" seeing that up to the 16th August the Servians certainly could not have resumed any ground occupied by the Turks since 1st August.

One circumstance mentioned in General Tchernaieff's report, viz.: " La présence de cadavres de soldats Nizams prouvent que ces atrocités sont l'œuvre de troupes régulières," is one completely opposed to my experience and that of my aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Dougall, R.N.

We have together witnessed many engagements between the Turks and Servians, and having generally, at one time or other, during or after the conflict, traversed the field of battle from end to end, we have invariably observed that the Turks buried their slain where they fell or where they may have died on their way to the rear, and that, too, at their earliest moment of leisure.

The exception testified by Colonel Preredavich and Captain Zikchanow, and other witnesses, is so far unaccountable that it was certainly not occasioned by stress of fight and defeat.

Assuming 1st of August to be an error for 1st September, I have already commented on a similar case in my despatch under reference.

With regard to the second report of General Tchernaieff, I have only to observe that it was at the ford near the village of Bonimir, where the Servians, in the course of their demonstration in the direction of Nish, on the 28th of September, incautiously threw across the river a battalion of infantry, which battalion being encountered by a superior force, including a considerable body of Circassians, was nearly destroyed. As the conflict took place under the Servian guns posted on the heights overhanging the Morava to the East, I should have supposed that the Servians would have been enabled, as usual, to carry off their wounded, but I am not in a position to refute the evidence adduced to the contrary. Certainly, with two exceptions, we have never seen any wounded Servians (those two being well cared for), but among the slain the signs of any such persons having been mutilated or tortured to death have not come under our notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

No. 998.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby. — (*Received November* 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 9, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that it has been agreed to omit from the instructions to the Military Commission for the arrangement of the armistice with Montenegro the paragraph stating that the extent of the neutral zone shall never be less than 8 kilom., and to substitute the inclosed paragraph for that prescribing the itinerary of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 998.

Instructions for the Commission to arrange the Armistice in Montenegro, substituted for those under "Itinéraire de la Commission" in the General Instructions.

LA Commission se réunira à Ragusa et se dérigera de là vers Trébinjé, Bilek, Gatzko, et Nichsich pour établir la ligne de démarcation en Herzégovine occupant des positions avancées, et reviendra ensuite par Kaleschin à la frontière Albanaise. Il est bien entendu que les questions se rapportant aux blocus existants devront être réglées par des stipulations spéciales, et que l'approvisionnement des places investies pendant la durée de l'armistice dépendra d'une entente directe entre les deux parties.

(Translation.)

THE Commission will assemble at Ragusa, and will thence proceed towards Trebingé, Bilek, Gatzko, and Nichsich, with a view of laying down a line of demarcation in Herzegovina for the advanced positions; it will return viâ Kaleschin to the Albanian frontier. It is to be well understood that questions relating to the existing blockades are to be settled by special stipulations, and that the provisioning, during the armistice, of places which are invested, is to be decided by a direct understanding between the two parties.

No. 999.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 9, 1876.*

THE inclosed memorandum of suggested reforms has been sent to me by Dr. Washburn and Dr. Long of the American College.

The thorough knowledge which these gentlemen possess respecting the state of the country entitles all they say to consideration, but there is much in their present suggestions of which the application does not seem practicable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 999.

Memoir on Reforms in Turkey.

WE are deeply impressed with the belief that the approaching Conference in Constantinople will afford England an opportunity for increasing her own influence in this country, and at the same time to secure inestimable advantages to its Christian populations.

We, therefore, venture to present the following memoir of those changes which seem to us essential, in order to secure equal rights to the Christians, and a better Government for all. It will be seen that no one of them touches the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, and all our propositions are already substantially included in promises made by the Turkish Goverment:—

1. The army should be changed from a Moslem to a national army. This change might be effected at once, on the following plan, which, we believe, would be satisfactory to the Christians.

Drafting of Christians into Christian regiments of which the Colonel to be a European, the Lieutenant-Colonel and the Major Turks, and all the company officers Christians.

The military schools to be opened at once to Christians, and these to take their places in the army as soon as trained. These schools will soon produce Christian officers as much superior to the Turks, as the medical school produces better Christian than Turkish surgeons. A similar change should be made in the navy, but the demand for this is not so pressing.

2. The Shera'at should be replaced by a civil code administered by Civil Courts. The details of this change should be elaborated by Jurists, but there are certain general principles which we may mention.

The Judiciary should be separated from the Executive Department. No Vali, Mutessarif, Mudir or Kaïmakam should have any control whatever over these Courts.

The Ecclesiastical Courts (Mehkemes) should be abolished, or confined strictly to Moslems in their relations with one another, and no ecclesiastic, Moslem or Christian, should be connected with any court. This will of course cut off all the Cadis.

There should be a Court of Appeal at Constantinople, and no appeal even allowed to the Executive department here.

Each vilayet should have its own Court of Appeals whose decision should be final, except in certain specified cases which may be appealed to Constantinople.

Each Mutessariflik should have its Court. For the Mudirliks a modification of the present Medjliss might be utilized for the present.

The languages of the Christian populations should be recognized as official as well as Turkish in these Courts.

All criminal as well as civil cases should come before these Courts, and no executive officer should have power to punish any person who has not been regularly tried and convicted.

All these courts should be open and public.

This reform of the judiciary will be more difficult than any other to accomplish, but it is, perhaps, as essential as difficult.

The prejudices and the pecuniary interest of the Ulemas must be overcome, and at the outset a large European element introduced, as in Egypt. Law schools should also be immediately established for the training of both Turks and Christians as Judges and Barristers in these Courts.

3. The Executive Department of the Government should be opened to Christians on the same terms as to Turks, and the principle of self-government and decentralisation applied as follows: Every Christian town should have a Christian Government, every mixed town a Governor from the larger nationality, and a Deputy-Governor from the smaller, with a mixed Council, half Christians and half Mussulmans. The same principle should be applied to the vilayets.

The police force should be organized on the same plan.

The executive officers should be appointed for a specified term and should be liable to removal only by regular impeachment for misconduct or on petition by the people.

As the Porte seems inclined to introduce the elective system all officers below Mutessarif might be chosen by the people, the higher officers to be appointed as now by the Central Government.

The official language should be Christian as well as Turkish.

These changes might be made at once, for there is just as good material among the Christians for filling these offices as among the Turks. The men now filling these offices are generally uneducated, and even a Vali is sometimes found unable to write.

4. *Taxation.*—The principal evils of the present system are:—1. The method of collecting by farming. 2. The people pay far more than the Government receives. 3. The unequal distribution. 4. The consequently excessive amount paid, which is ruining the Empire.

As a remedy we would propose: The total and immediate abolition of farming of the tithes and other taxes: The payment in money and not in kind of all taxes. The collection of the taxes by the people themselves in each village, and in each Mahalleh of the larger towns through an officer chosen by themselves, and who shall deliver to each taxpayer a receipt in his language for the full amount paid. The publication by the posting up in a conspicuous place or by means of a register open to the public of the exact amount paid by each person in each village and mahalleh.

A new apportionment of the taxes based upon the actual receipts of the Malieh for the last five years. A Mixed Commission of European Turks and Christians to take these actual receipts as a basis of apportionment first to the vilayets, then to the Mutessarifliks, the Kaïmakamliks, Mudirliks, villages, and Mahallehs, the average of actual receipts for the last five years to be the amount paid by the people in the manner mentioned above.

This scheme is perfectly practicable, and would meet the wants of the people by doing away with existing evils.

5. *Education.*—Each nationality should be left perfectly free to manage its own educational arrangements in its own way and pay its own expenses. Whatever may be the general principles on this subject which are applicable to the nations of Europe, absolute freedom of education is the only possible principle which the Central Government of Turkey can adopt.

6. *Religious liberty.*—There must be an absolute equality of all religions before the law—perfect freedom of worship to all—freedom to build places of worship without any interference on the part of the Government, freedom to change one's faith, freedom to express religious opinions and to print and sell religious books.

There should be, in short, the abolition of all ecclesiastical interference in civil affairs, and of all Governmental interference in ecclesiastical affairs, and complete protection should be secured for all against any persecution, abuse, or civil disability on account of religious opinions.

7. *Legislation.*—We see no special objection to Midhat Pasha's scheme of a national Parliament, except in its details. It would appear that its chief object is to

limit the absolute power of the Sultan. It is not likely to be more inefficient than the present Grand Council, and it may be an improvement upon it, and might be tried if it is understood that it does not stand in the way of real reform. It should consist, however, of an equal number of Moslem and non-Moslem members, and should fairly represent all the nationalities and religions recognised in the Empire.

Such is a very brief statement of what we consider essential reforms, without which there can be no possibility of lasting peace or prosperity in the Empire. The Christian population have advanced so far in education and in acquaintance with the condition of other people, that the Turkish Government, as now administered, has become intolerable to them. It is for the evident interest of all classes, Mussulman and non-Mussulman, that such changes should be made at once as would satisfy the different nationalities, and give room for further progress.

These reforms are needed in Asia as well as in Europe, but there are special conditions in the latter which make it easy and more essential that they be immediately applied to the whole of European-Turkey.

Our excuse for presenting this memoir to your Excellency is that we have lived for twenty years in this country in constant and intimate relations with the people. We believe that we can represent their wishes, and you know also how heartily we sympathise with the nation and Government which you represent.

(Signed) GEORGE WASHBURN.
ALBERT L. LONG.

No. 1000.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, November* 9, 1876.

ALTHOUGH, with a view to avoiding anything having the appearance of a menace against Russia, the Porte, upon my advice, decided not to send a squadron into the Black Sea, it is not without uneasiness about the possibility of a *coup de main* being attempted, by which a Russian force might be landed within a short distance of the capital, upon which it could march unopposed.

I have informed your Lordship that the whole of the ships belonging to the Black Sea Navigation Company are kept at home, and could be available at a moment's notice for the conveyance of a large army.

The Turkish ships of war, which were intended for the Black Sea, have been ordered to the Upper Bosphorus at Buyukdéré, or Beicos; but I understand that even this measure of ordinary precaution is represented at the Russian Embassy as an offensive demonstration.

No. 1001.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November* 17.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le* 8 *Novembre,* 1876.

PAR ma dépêche télégraphique du 12 Octobre, je vous ai communiqué la note adressée à Messieurs les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople relativement à l'armistice de six mois proposé par la Sublime Porte et ayant pour but la suspension des hostilités avec la Serbie et le Monténégro.

Votre Excellence sait qu'à la suite de cette note le Cabinet Impérial de St. Pétersbourg avait proposé aux autres Puissances Médiatrices d'assigner un terme de six semaines à cet armistice. Une entente n'était pas encore établie à ce sujet entre les Gouvernements, lorsque M. le Général Ignatiew est arrivé à Constantinople.

Le Grand Vézir avait insinué à l'Ambassadeur de Russie que la Sublime Porte pourrait accepter le terme de six semaines si on prenait l'engagement de le prolonger de six autres semaines dans le cas où la paix ne viendrait pas à être conclue à l'expiration du premier terme, et de le faire suivre d'un autre terme de deux mois, si l'on en tombait pas d'accord même à la fin du second délai. Le Général prenant cette combinaison comme base des négociations, avait chargé M. Onou de proposer au Grand Vézir une rédaction contenant certaines conditions relatives à la prolongation éventuelle des termes convenus. Vous trouverez, ci-jointe, la copie de ce projet.

Le Conseil des Ministres appelé à examiner cette rédaction, considérant que la prolongation de chaque terme dépendrait de la tournure des négociations de la paix, et que les conditions proposées n'offraient aucune garantie pour la prolongation des différents termes de l'armistice, a cru devoir y apporter quelques amendements dans le but d'en assurer la durée au moins pendant cinq mois. Vous trouverez également, ci-près, la copie de ce projet d'arrangement sub Litt. B.* Mais l'Ambassadeur de Russie ne voulant pas accepter les réserves ajoutées à ces propositions, a adressé à la Sublime Porte un autre projet que je joins à cette dépêche sub Litt. C.†

Devant l'insistance du Cabinet Impérial de St. Pétersbourg pour la conclusion d'un armistice pur et simple de six semaines auxquelles des instructions ultérieures de Livadia ont, dans l'intervalle, ajouté deux autres semaines, nous avons cru devoir accepter ce dernier projet en y introduisant, toutefois, en vertu d'une entente préalable intervenue entre le Grand Vézir et le Général Ignatiew, une clause relative aux bandes d'insurgés qui ne cessent de dévaster le pays et de troubler le repos et la tranquillité de ses habitants. Cependant l'expédition *in extenso* à Livadia par la voie télégraphique de ce projet d'arrangement ayant coïncidé avec la réception de la nouvelle d'une victoire remportée par les troupes Impériales et de la défaite des Serbes dans une sanglante bataille livrée près d'Alexinatz, le Cabinet de Russie a rejeté cet arrangement qu'il a appelé conditionnel et a donné à son Ambassadeur l'ordre d'adresser à la Sublime Porte sous forme d'ultimatum une note officielle pour lui proposer l'acceptation d'un armistice pur et simple de six semaines à deux mois et de quitter Constantinople si dans l'espace de quarante-huit heures elle ne voulait y souscrire.

Désireux de donner, dans cette circonstance encore, à l'Europe une nouvelle preuve de nos sentiments de conciliation et de notre désir ardent de conserver nos rapports d'amitié et de bon voisinage avec le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, nous nous sommes empressés d'accéder à cette proposition bien qu'elle nous eût été faite d'une manière un peu péremptoire. Je vous transmets, ci-joint sub Litt. D et E,‡ copie de la correspondance échangée à ce sujet entre mon Département et le Général Ignatiew. Ainsi l'armistice étant conclu, les Représentants des Puissances Médiatrices ont désigné leurs délégués pour la démarcation de la zône de neutralisation.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, November* 8, 1876.

IN my telegraphic despatch of October 12th, I communicated to you the note addressed to the Representatives of the great Powers at Constantinople respecting the armistice of six months proposed by the Sublime Porte, with a view to the suspension of hostilities with Servia and Montenegro.

Your Excellency is aware that, subsequent to this note, the Imperial Cabinet of St. Petersburgh proposed to the other Mediating Powers to assign a term of six weeks for this armistice. An understanding had not been arrived at on this subject between the Governments when General Ignatiew arrived at Constantinople.

The Grand Vizier had hinted to the Russian Ambassador that the Sublime Porte might accept the term of six weeks if an engagement were concluded to prolong it for another six weeks in case of peace not being concluded at the expiration of the first term, and that this might be followed by another term of two months if, at the end even of the second delay, no agreement had been come to. The General took this combination as the basis of negotiations, and charged M. Onou to propose to the Grand Vizier that a document should be drawn up containing certain conditions respecting the eventual prolongation of the terms agreed upon. You will find inclosed herewith a copy of this project.

The Council of Ministers summoned to examine this document, considering that the prolongation of each term would depend on the progress of the peace negotiations, and that the proposed conditions offered no security for the prolongation of the different terms of the armistice, thought it right to add some amendments, with a view of ensuring its duration for at least five months. You will find likewise, annexed, a copy of this project of an arrangement under Litt. B. But, as the Russian Ambassador would not accept the reservations added to these proposals, he addressed another project to the Sublime Porte, which I annex to this despatch under Litt. C.

In the presence of the urgent request of the Imperial Cabinet of St. Petersburgh for the conclusion of an unconditional armistice of six weeks, to which two more weeks were

* See Inclosure in No. 982. † See Inclosure in No. 980.

‡ See Inclosures in No. 989.

added in consequence of further instructions from Livadia in the interval, we thought it right to accept this last project, introducing at the same time, in virtue of a previous understanding between the Grand Vizier and General Ignatiew, a clause respecting the bands of insurgents who continue to devastate the country, and to disturb the repose and tranquillity of its inhabitants. Nevertheless, the despatch *in extenso* by telegraph to Livadia of this project of an arrangement having coincided with the receipt of news of a victory gained by the Imperial troops, and of the defeat of the Servians after a bloody battle near Alexinatz, the Russian Cabinet rejected this arrangement, which it called a conditional one, and ordered its Ambassador to address to the Sublime Porte, in the shape of an ultimatum, an official note, proposing the acceptance of an unconditional armistice of from six weeks to two months, and to quit Constantinople if within forty-eight hours the Porte had not given its consent thereto.

Being desirous of affording to Europe in this instance also, a fresh proof of our conciliatory disposition and ardent wish to preserve our relations as friends and good neighbours of the Imperial Government of Russia, we hastened to accede to this proposal, although it was made to us in a somewhat peremptory manner.

I transmit to you herewith, under Littt. D and E, copies of the correspondence which passed on this subject between my department and General Ignatiew.

The armistice having been thus settled, the Representatives of the Mediating Powers have selected their delegates for the demarcation of the neutral zone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1001.

M. Onou to the Grand Vizier.

(Particulière.)

Altesse, *Le* $\frac{9}{21}$ *Octobre*, 1876.

CONFORMEMENT au vœu que vous avez bien voulu exprimer ce matin dans la conversation avec le Général, je suis chargé, en vue du Conseil de demain, de vous faire part de certaines considérations qui vous démontreront combien l'Ambassadeur est désireux de concourir à l'œuvre de la pacification; d'après nos renseignements, la nouvelle boucherie d'Alexinatz est restée sans résultat pour la suite des opérations. Toutes ces terribles pertes d'hommes sont inutiles. Du côté du Monténégro, Medun est tombé, assure-t-on, au pouvoir des Montagnards, ce qui pourrait provoquer une action offensive de leur part. Il devient donc urgent de mettre immédiatement un terme à l'effusion du sang en proclamant l'armistice avec une ligne de démarcation à tracer par les Agents Militaires des Puissances afin de séparer les combattants et d'empêcher à l'avenir toute nouvelle agression.

A Livadia on insiste plus que jamais sur la conclusion immédiate d'un armistice de six semaines. On pourrait donc accorder la manière de voir de votre Altesse avec celle de Livadia en formulant l'armistice de la manière suivante:—

"Un armistice avec ligne de démarcation sous la surveillance d'officiers étrangers délégués *ad hoc* jusqu'au 15 Novembre ou 1 Décembre, vieux style, afin de pouvoir arriver à la pacification durant ce laps de temps. Si, contre toute attente, le résultat désiré n'était pas obtenu jusqu'à l'expiration de ce délai, les Puissances conviendraient de renouveler l'armistice pour six autres semaines, quitte à le renouveler une troisième fois pour deux mois encore, si la nécessité en était reconnue."

De cette façon, les cinq mois seraient obtenus sans entourer l'armistice de conditions qui ne feraient que compliquer l'œuvre de la pacification et provoquer des discussions oiseuses avant même de faire le premier pas si important.

L'Ambassadeur serait très-désireux d'avoir à communiquer à Livadia un moment plus tôt une réponse favorable à ce sujet, ce qui ne manquerait pas de détendre la situation.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) ONOU.

(Translation.)

(Private.)

Highness, *October* $\frac{9}{21}$, 1876.

IN accordance with the wish you were pleased to express this morning in a conversation with the General, I am instructed, with a view to the Council to-morrow, to bring to your knowledge certain considerations, which will show you how desirous the Ambassador is of co-operating in the work of pacification; according to our information, the fresh butchery at Alexinatz has produced no result as regards the end of the operations. All this terrible loss of life is useless. On the side of Montenegro, Medun, they affirm,

has fallen into the power of the Mountaineers, which may lead to offensive action on their part. It becomes, therefore, a matter of urgency to put an end at once to the bloodshed by proclaiming the armistice with a line of demarcation to be traced by the Military Agents of the Powers, so as to separate the combatants, and to prevent in future all fresh aggression.

At Livadia the immediate conclusion of an armistice of six weeks is more than ever insisted on. It might be possible, therefore, to make your Highness' views agree with those of Livadia, by drawing up the terms of the armistice in the following way :—

"An armistice with line of demarcation under the supervision of foreign officers, delegated *ad hoc*, till the 15th November, or 1st December (old style), so as to be able to come to a pacification during this period of time. If, contrary to all expectation, the wished-for result was not secured before the expiration of this delay, the Powers might agree on a renewal of the armistice for another six weeks, with the liberty of renewing it a third time for two months longer, if they saw a necessity for so doing."

In this way the five months would be secured without surrounding the armistice with conditions which would only tend to complicate the work of pacification, and provoke idle discussions before making even the first step which is of such importance.

The Ambassador would be very glad to have a favourable reply on this subject, to communicate to Livadia at the earliest possible moment, as this would not fail to lighten the difficulties of the position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ONOU.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1001.

Form of Armistice proposed by the Porte *

(Ad. Litt. B.)

POUR mettre un terme aux maux de la guerre un armistice de deux mois est conclu sur la médiation des Puissances, à partir du .

Par conséquent, les hostilités cesseront dès ce moment sur tout le théâtre de la guerre ; des délégués seront nommés de la part des Puissances Garantes et envoyé immédiatement sur les lieux des hostilités en Serbie et au Monténégro pour procéder aux opérations de démarcation.

Si, contre toute attente, une paix durable n'était pas conclue jusqu'à l'expiration de ce délai, et si le cours des négociations l'exigeait, un nouveau délai de six semaines sera établi. Après quoi, l'armistice pourrait être encore prolongé de six semaines, selon ce qui serait convenu entre la Sublime Porte et toutes les Puissances Garantes.

Les bandes qui se trouvent en dehors des lignes de démarcation, tant en Bosnie qu'en Herzégovine, et dans d'autres localités, et qui troublent constamment le repos et la tranquillité de ces provinces, seront sommées par le Gouvernement Impérial de quitter le pays dans l'espace d'une semaine ; dans le cas où elles ne se conformeront pas à cette sommation elles seront poursuivies par les troupes Ottomanes.

[For Translation, see Inclosure 1 in No. 982.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 1001.

Further Draft of Form of Armistice.†

(Ad. Litt. C.)

UNE longue incertitude étant nuisible aux intérêts commerciaux, industriels, et financiers de toute l'Europe, et préjudiciable à la prompte conclusion d'une paix durable que toutes les Puissances désirent, un armistice pur et simple est conclu (dès Vendredi prochain) sur tout le théâtre des hostilités, et durera jusqu'au $\frac{1}{13}$ Décembre. Si, contre toute attente, une paix durable n'était pas établie jusqu'à l'expiration de ce délai, et, si le cours des négociations l'exigeait, un nouveau délai de six semaines sera établi immédiatement, après quoi l'armistice pourrait être encore prolongé de deux mois, selon ce qui serait convenu entre la Sublime Porte et toutes les Puissances Garantes.

* See Inclosure 1 in No. 982.

† See Inclosure in No. 980.

(Translation.)

(Ad. Litt. C.)

AS a long period of uncertainty is hurtful to the commercial, industrial, and financial interests of the whole of Europe, and prejudicial to the prompt conclusion of a lasting peace, which is desired by all the Powers, an unconditional armistice is concluded (from Friday next) for the whole scene of hostilities, to last till the $\frac{1}{13}$ December. If, contrary to all expectation, a lasting peace is not concluded before the expiration of this delay, and if the course of negotiations should require it, a fresh delay of six weeks will be at once arranged, after which the armistice might still be prolonged for two months, according to what might be agreed upon between the Sublime Porte and all the Guaranteeing Powers.

No. 1002.

Instructions concernant le Mode d'Election provisoire et pour un an des Membres qui doivent composer l'Assemblée Nationale de l'Empire.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November 17, 1876.)

EN vertu d'un Iradé Impérial, qui confirme la décision du Grand Conseil, la Constitution d'un Parlement, qui siégera dans la capitale et dont la Loi Organique et le règlement intérieur sont déjà en voie d'élaboration, a été décrétée.

Les dispositions suivantes ont été arrêtées pour être appliquées pendant la première année et à titre provisoire :—

Article 1. Le Parlement comprendra deux corps distincts, dont l'un sera composé des députés légalement issus du suffrage populaire et qui auront pour attributions de délibérer sur les projets de loi dont l'esprit sera en harmonie avec les dispositions du Cher'i, et qui répondront aux besoins légitimes du pays. Ils auront, en outre, à discuter et à voter le budget des recettes et des dépenses de l'Empire.

Ce grand corps de l'Etat s'appellera Chambre des Députés et sera composé, pour la première année, de cent trente membres au moins. La seconde Assemblée sera composée des membres nommés par l'Etat et aura pour attributions de délibérer sur les lois votées par la Chambre des Députés, de les confirmer, d'après les dispositions des règlements organiques qui seront promulgués à cet effet, ou de les renvoyer à la Chambre des Députés pour être modifiées ou amendées.

Ce corps délibératif sera nommé Sénat ou Chambre des Seigneurs.

Art. 2. L'élection des membres de la Chambre des Députés se fera par les sujets de toutes les classes de l'Empire et d'après une loi électorale, qui sera ultérieurement promulguée. Toutefois, vu la nécessité de procéder sans retard à la création et au fonctionnement de cette Assemblée, les élections provinciales seront faites exceptionnellement cette année par les conseils administratifs des chefs-lieux de vilayets, des sandjaks et des cazas qui, étant déjà issus du suffrage populaire, donneront, au choix fait par eux des députés qu'ils enverront au Parlement de l'Empire, la même valeur que celle que comporte le suffrage direct de la nation.

Art. 3. Les conditions exigibles pour être élu député sont, d'après les prescriptions du Hatt Impérial, les suivantes:

De jouir, en premier lieu, de la confiance et de l'estime publiques ; de posséder les principes de la langue officielle de l'Empire ; d'être âgé au moins de 25 ans ; de jouir de tous les droits civils et politiques et d'être plus ou moins contribuable envers l'Etat comme propriétaire.

Tout sujet de l'Empire, se trouvant dans ces conditions, a les qualités requises pour être élu député.

Tout fonctionnaire rétribué du Gouvernement, qui sera élu et qui aura accepté son mandat, devra donner sa démission du poste qu'il occupe dans la hiérarchie.

Les députés d'un vilayet ne pourront pas être considérés comme les représentants exclusifs de ce même vilayet, ni d'une fraction quelconque de la nation, mais bien comme les representants de la nation entière.

Art. 4. Des listes seront dressées déterminant le nombre des députés que chaque vilayet sera appelé à élire pour la présente année.

Les membres électifs des Conseils Administratifs de tous les cazas, ainsi que des chefs-lieux des sandjaks, compris dans un vilayet, peuvent individuellement prendre part à l'élection des députés.

Cette élection sera faite de la manière suivante :

Avant de procéder à l'élection des députés dans chaque vilayet, le Gouverneur-Général enverra à tous les Mutessarifs et Caïmacams de sa juridiction des instructions identiques au modèle ci-annexé, dans lesquelles il désignera le nombre des députés Musulmans et non-Musulmans qui doivent être élus et il indiquera dans ses détails le mode d'élection qui devra être suivi.

Conformément à ces instructions, les members des Conseils d'Administration inscriront, chacun sur un bulletin, un nombre déterminé de candidats Musulmans et non-Musulmans, choisis parmi les habitants du vilayet et possédant les qualités spécifiées à l'Article 3.

Les membres des Conseils d'Administration, après avoir préparé ces bulletins indépendamment de toute intervention des autorités gouvernementales, et les avoir signés ou revêtus de leur cachet, les remettront, sous enveloppe cachetée, au Caïmacam.

Les bulletins remis séparément par les membres des Conseils de Cazas au Caïmacam et par ceux des Conseils de Sandjaks au Mutessarif, seront expédiés au vali sans être décachetés.

Lorsque tous les cazas et sandjaks auront ainsi expédié leurs bulletins au chef-lieu du vilayet, les membres du Conseil d'Administration de ce chef-lieu donneront aussi leurs votes électifs d'après le mode ci-dessus établi. Un comité de scrutateurs, qui pourra compter jusqu'à quinze membres, sera formé sous la présidence du vali et composé des notabilités du vilayet, des ulémas et des chefs spirituels des différentes communautés. Les bulletins d'élection seront décachetés et dépouillés en présence de ce comité. Les personnes qui auront réuni la majorité des votes seront élues suivant le nombre des députés fixé pour le vilayet et respectivement pour chaque catégorie de ses habitants. Mais, dans le cas où il y aurait parité des voix, il sera procédé au scrutin de ballottage. Les personnes élues seront aussitôt informées du résultat du scrutin.

Les bulletins d'élection, accompagnés de tableaux spécialement dressés, seront expédiés par les valys à la Sublime Porte et seront, pour la première année seulement, vérifiés par le Conseil d'Etat.

Art. 5. L'ouverture de la session de la Chambre des Députés est fixée au 1er Décembre de chaque année; mais, pour cette fois, elle aura lieu au 1er Mars et la session durera au moins trois mois.

Les députés élus se rendront à Constantinople, munis chacun d'une lettre du Gouverneur-Général et d'un rapport du comité des scrutateurs constatant le nombre de suffrages qu'ils auront obtenu et le chiffre de la majorité qui aura déterminé leur élection.

Art. 6. La ville de Constantinople et la banlieue seront divisées en vingt circonscriptions électorales.

Chaque circonscription sera appelée à choisir deux délégués-électeurs. Il sera formé dans chaque circonscription une commission qui invitera individuellement tous les habitants, sujets Ottomans, contribuables comme propriétaires et au-dessus de vingt-cinq ans, à procéder au choix de deux délégués qui seront chargés de l'élection des députés.

Ces habitants réunis feront inscrire sur le registre de la Commission les noms de leur choix pour les délégués-électeurs.

Les deux personnes qui réuniraient à la suite de cette formalité la majorité des suffrages, seront déclarées comme ayant été nommées délégués-électeurs.

Les délégués, ainsi élus des vingt circonscriptions électorales, se réuniront dans le local désigné ultérieurement par le Gouvernement et, conformément au mode d'élection suivi par les Conseils Administratifs des Vilayets, ils inscriront sur un bulletin les noms des candidats choisis parmi les habitants de Constantinople et remplissant les conditions requises par l'Article 3.

Ces bulletins, signés ou revêtus du cachet des délégués-électeurs, seront expédiés sous enveloppe cachetée et par le canal du préfet de la ville au Conseil d'Etat, qui en fera la vérification dans la forme adoptée et suivie dans les chefs-lieux des vilayets.

Les candidates dont les noms auront obtenu la majorité des suffrages seront proclamés députés, et il leur sera délivré un mandat spécial.

Art. 7. Les députés recevront une indemnité de trois mille piastres, à dater du jour de leur arrivée à Constantinople. Leurs frais de voyage pour se rendre dans la capitale et pour s'en retourner chez eux seront payés par les caisses provinciales, en conformité du règlement concernant les frais de déplacement de fonctionnaires qui reçoivent un traitement équivalant à celui des députés. Ces frais seront évalués d'après la distance. Lorsque les deux tiers des députés seront réunis à Constantinople,

la session pourra être ouverte par Iradé Impérial, sans qu'il soit nécessaire d'attendre l'arrivée des absents.

Constantinople, le 10 *Chéval,* 1293 (*le* $\frac{16}{28}$ *Octobre,* 1876).

(Translation.)

Instructions concerning the Manner of Election of the Members who are to compose the National Assembly of the Empire, provisionally and for one year only.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November 17, 1876.)

IN pursuance of an Imperial Iradé, confirming the decision of the Grand Council, the formation of a Parliament, which shall hold its sessions in the capital, has been decreed, and the Organic Law and internal arrangements of the same are now being elaborated.

The following resolutions have been determined on, and are to have force of law during the first year, but only provisionally.

Article 1. The Parliament shall be composed of two separate bodies, one of which shall consist of deputies legally chosen by public suffrage, who shall have the privilege of deliberating on points of law of which the spirit shall be in harmony with the arrangements of the Cher'i, and which shall answer to the legitimate requirements of the country. Their duty will also be to discuss and vote the Budget of the receipts and expenses of the Empire.

This important institution of the State shall be called the Chamber of Deputies, and shall be composed for the first year of 130 members at least. The second Assembly shall be composed of members appointed by the State, and its duty will be to deliberate on the laws voted by the Chamber of Deputies, to confirm them, according to the arrangements of the organic rules which shall be promulgated to this effect, or to send them back to the Chamber of Deputies for modification or amendment.

This deliberative body shall be called Senate or House of Lords.

Art. 2. The election of members for the Chamber of Deputies shall be made by subjects of all classes of the Empire, and according to an electoral law, which will be promulgated hereafter.

Nevertheless, in view of the necessity of taking measures without delay for the formation and immediate opening of this Assembly, the provincial elections shall be made this year, as an exceptional case, by the Administrative Councils of the chief towns of the vilayets, sandjaks, and cazas, for these having been already chosen by popular suffrage, will give the same weight to their choice of deputies to be sent to the Imperial Parliament, as that given by the direct vote of the nation.

Art. 3. The qualifications which are necessary in order to be elected deputy shall be the following, according to the rules laid down by the Imperial Hatt, namely:—

To possess, in the first place, the confidence and esteem of the public; to understand the principles of the official language of the Empire; to be at least twenty-five years old; to be in the enjoyment of all civil and political rights, and to be, as proprietors, more or less subject to the taxes of the State.

Every subject of the Empire finding himself in these conditions, has the qualification requisite for being elected deputy.

Every functionary paid by Government who shall be elected deputy and shall accept his election, must resign the post which he holds in the hierarchy.

The deputies of a vilayet cannot be considered as the exclusive representatives of the same vilayet, nor of any portion whatever of the nation, but as the representatives of the whole nation.

Art. 4. Lists shall be drawn up, fixing the number of deputies which each vilayet shall be called on to elect for this year.

The elective members of the Administrative Councils of all the cazas as well as of the chief towns of the sandjaks comprised in the vilayet, may individually take part in the election of the deputies.

This election shall be made in the following manner:—

Before proceeding to the election of deputies in each vilayet, the Governor-General shall send to all the Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams under his jurisdiction, instructions identical with the model of the one herewith appended, in which he shall indicate the number of deputies, Mussulman or non-Mussulman, who are to be elected, and he will point out in detail the mode of election which is to be followed.

In conformity with these instructions the members of the Administrative Councils will each write on a voting paper a fixed number of Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans

chosen from amongst the inhabitants of the vilayet, and possessing the qualifications specified in Article 3.

The members of the Administrative Councils, after preparing these voting papers, free from all interference on the part of the Government authorities, and after signing them and sealing them with their seal, will forward them in a sealed envelope to the Kaïmakam.

The voting papers severally sent by the members of the Councils of Cazas to the Kaïmakam, and by the members of the Councils of Sandjaks to the Mutessarif, shall be sent to the Vali without being unsealed.

When all the cazas and sandjaks shall thus have sent their voting papers to the the chief town of the vilayet, the members of the Council of Administration of that chief town shall also give their elective votes after the manner set forth above.

A committee of scrutiny, which may number as many as fifteen members, shall be formed under the supervision of the Vali, and shall be composed of the principal inhabitants of the vilayet, of the ulemas and spiritual chiefs of the different communities. The voting papers for the election shall be unsealed and examined in the presence of this committee. Those who shall have received the greatest number of votes shall be elected according to the number of deputies determined for the villayet, and for each class of its inhabitants respectively.

But in case of the votes being equal, scrutiny by ballot shall be resorted to.

Those elected shall be immediately informed of the result of the scrutiny.

The voting papers, accompanied by lists specially drawn up, shall be sent by the Valis to the Sublime Porte, and shall be verified for this first year only by the Council of State.

Art 5. The opening of the Session of the Chamber of Deputies is fixed for the 1st of December in each year; but on this occasion only, it will take place on the 1st of March, and the Session is to last at least three months.

The deputies elected will proceed to Constantinople, each one provided with a letter from the Governor-General, and with a Report from the committee of scrutiny certifying the number of votes which they have polled and the majority which determined their election.

Art. 6. The town of Constantinople and its suburbs will be divided into twenty electoral districts.

Each district shall be called on to choose two delegated electors. A commission is to be formed in each district to invite individually all the inhabitants, being Ottoman subjects, paying taxes as proprietors, and above twenty-five years, to proceed to the choice of two delegates, who shall be charged with the election of deputies.

These inhabitants united shall cause to be inscribed on the registries of the commission the names of their choice for the office of delegated electors.

The two individuals who, after these formalities have been gone through, shall receive the majority of votes, shall be declared to have been elected as delegated electors.

The delegates thus elected from the twenty electoral districts, shall meet in the place hereafter to be appointed by the Government, and in conformity with the manner of election followed by the Administrative Councils of the vilayets, they shall write on a voting paper the names of candidates chosen from amongst the inhabitants of Constantinople and fulfilling the conditions required by Article 3.

These papers signed or sealed with the seal of the delegated electors shall be sent in a sealed envelope and through the channel of the town prefect to the Council of State, who shall verify them in the manner adopted and followed in the chief towns of the vilayets.

The candidates who have obtained the majority of votes will be proclaimed deputies, and a special warrant will be delivered to them.

Art. 7. The deputies shall receive an indemnity of 3,000 piastres from the day that they arrive at Constantinople.

The expenses of their journey to the capital and of their return home shall be paid by the provincial Treasuries in conformity with the rules which regulate the travelling expenses of officials who receive the same salary as the deputies.

These expenses shall be calculated according to distance.

As soon as two-thirds of the deputies shall have met at Constantinople, the session can be opened by Imperial Iradé, without its being necessary to wait for the arrival of the absentees.

Constantinople, 10 *Cheval*, 1293 (*October* $\frac{16}{28}$ 1876).

No. 1003.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, November* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed by me on the 7th instant to Sir Henry Elliot respecting the reasons why Servia ought to desire conclusion of definite peace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 1003.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, November* 7, 1876.

NOTHING could be more lamentable than the ruin and misery brought on this Principality in consequence of the prolongation of the war far beyond the intention of the original projectors of it.

When the war first broke out, leading partizans of such a move asserted that it could not last beyond two months, as the resources of Servia would not allow of its prolongation beyond such a period.

Not only have the villages had to supply men and money, but the commissariat and transport services have been exclusively provided by requisitions. The last harvest has remained to rot in the fields over a vast tract of the country, and an equally considerable tract of land remains unsown.

Besides the natives of the land, there are thousands of Bulgarian and Bosniac refugees, who have sought shelter, running away from their own devastated homes and seeking for security at some distance beyond the actual scene of warlike operations. The Exchequer is exhausted; the desolation and ruin appears general, and the most natural thing to suppose would be that the rulers of the country would at once seize the first opportunity to close the door to all further complications, by endeavouring to restore peace and tranquillity to the Principality, and by seeking to detach peace with Servia from the general question of the pacification of the Slav provinces of Turkey.

Some such hope was in the mind of these very Rulers when they applied for the good offices of the Powers on August 24th, 1876. At that time it was doubtful whether the Porte would be willing to offer fair and generous terms of reconciliation; but the negotiations carried on since, if they have not produced any other result, have, at least, brought about a general understanding among the Powers that it would be desirable to restore to Servia the *status quo ante bellum* in the general interests of Europe.

Since the last defeats the Russian agents here are sedulously endeavouring to instil a disbelief that the Porte will now be as yielding on that question as she was some weeks ago.

It is evident that these persons continue, for some sinister object, to sow distrust in the minds of those Servians who would like to see peace restored, and to keep the Servian question unsettled and precarious for some time longer.

This cannot be, this ought not to be, the real interest of any well-wishers to Servia, nor of those European statesmen who are desirous of preserving the East of Europe from fresh calamities and unknown perils.

If the fate of this Principality could, as regards its relations to the Suzerain Power, be restored to the condition existing prior to this war, no prejudice would be caused to any other question now under discussion with Turkey, and even Russia can have no proper interest in keeping a question open which is nothing but a bleeding sore in a country in which she professes to take so deep an interest.

Should the Emperor of Russia ultimately determine to send troops against the Porte, the present exhausted condition of Servia debars it from any value, either as an ally or as a basis for operations. Moreover, the recent loss of the important position about Deligrad and the proximity to the territories of a military Power such as Austria would render such an experiment highly hazardous unless Russia could be previously assured of the connivance or co-operation of the latter Power.

There appears, therefore, every inducement, whether from motives of humanity or

sound policy, to allow Servia to conclude a separate peace under the mediation of the Powers by signing a Protocol to that effect at Constantinople.

A couple of weeks ago, when the late disaster of the Servian army appeared approaching, it was thought likely that Prince Milan would apply for such a termination of his differences with the Porte directly to Constantinople as soon as the loss of Alexinatz should become known.

But, though some hesitation was apparent as following on that Turkish victory, it is now clear that, from the influence exercised by M. Kartzoff in the Prince's councils, that no step, however salutary for Servia, will be taken unless approved of and supported by that Representative of the Emperor of Russia, who has gradually superseded all his other colleagues, and even some influential Servians, and has succeeded in finally establishing his own influence in their stead.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 1004.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, November* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed by me on the 8th instant to Sir Henry Elliot respecting the projected visit of General Tchernaieff to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 1004.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, November* 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that General Tchernaieff returned to Belgrade last night and is about to proceed to Russia in a few days, accompanied, it is said, by a deputation of Russian and Servian officers, who have served under him here, and who will probably seek to stir up sympathy for the Panslavic cause in Russian society.

Before handing over the command of his army, or, rather, the remnants thereof, to Colonel Horvatovitch, General Tchernaieff addressed an allocution to the Russian officers who had followed him here at his bidding; he begged of them to continue steadfast to the cause they were serving, and to return to Servia after a short holiday; before the end of the armistice, he asked them not to speak badly of the shortcomings of the Servians, whether officers or men, and to consider that this struggle was sure to be renewed shortly, and that with far more powerful Russian assistance.

The General promises to be back here in three weeks. The public here continues in apathetic indifference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 1005.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Rome, November* 14, 1876.

IN a conversation which I had to-day with Signor Melegari, I asked his Excellency if he had taken any determination in regard to the appointment of a Special Plenipotentiary to the Conference at Constantinople.

His Excellency said that he felt no slight difficulty in doing so. In the first place, he did not exactly know who to send. Satisfied as he was, and confiding entirely as he did, in the ability of Count Corti, he should be loth to put any one over his head; on the other hand, he did not see the utility of naming a Plenipotentiary

who would be second to him. Under all circumstances, therefore, he thought that, for the preliminary discussions, at all events, the Italian Government would be content with one Representative—their present Minister at Constantinople. If, at the formal Conference, all the other Powers had two Plenipotentiaries, he would endeavour to find some one to act with Count Corti.

I asked his Excellency what he thought of the prospects of peace, especially with reference to the Emperor of Russia's recent speech.

Signor Melegari replied, that he believed a manifesto of a pacific nature was to appear to-day in the official "Journal of St. Petersburgh." He added that his impression was that peace would be preserved, though not through the agency of the Conference, but by a direct understanding between Russia and Turkey, to which the other Powers would be invited to adhere.

I asked his Excellency if he had any information which led him to believe that separate negotiations were going on between the Russian and Turkish Governments. He replied that he had none whatever, but that he thought an understanding between them was to be expected in the natural course of things.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 1006.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Vienna, November 5*, 1876.

WITH reference to my telegram of this day's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of the note which I have addressed to Count Andrassy, communicating to his Excellency the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, relative to the composition of a Conference to be held at Constantinople, and the base for its deliberations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 1006.

Sir A. Buchanan to Count Andrassy.

M. le Comte, *Vienna, November 5*, 1876.

WITH reference to the telegram from the Earl of Derby which I read to your Excellency this morning, I have now the honour, in compliance with your request, to communicate to you in writing the substance of the proposals which I have been instructed to make to the Austro-Hungarian Government, in consequence of the Government of the Queen, my Sovereign, having determined to take the initiative, as there appears to be some hesitation about the formal proposal of a Conference for negotiating peace between the Porte and the other parties which have been engaged in hostilities.

The proposals which I have been instructed to submit to your Excellency are the following:—

That a Conference should be held at Constantinople, in which the Guaranteeing Powers and the Porte shall take part, and in which each Government may have two Representatives.

That the bases for the deliberations for the Conference, as suggested by Her Majesty's Government, should be—

1st. The independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

2nd. A declaration that the Powers do not seek for territorial advantages, exclusive influence, or commercial concessions, as in the Protocols, of which copies are inclosed, of September 17, 1840, and August 3, 1860; and

3rd. The terms of the pacification proposed by Sir Henry Elliot, in conformity with instructions addressed to him by the Earl of Derby on the 21st of September last, namely—

(1.) The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

(2.) That the Porte should simultaneously undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, to grant to

Bosnia and Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy, by which it is to be understood a system of local institutions, which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority.

There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against maladministration in Bulgaria. The exact nature of these might be discussed later, and Sir Henry Elliot was to add that the reforms already agreed to by the Porte in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th February last will be expected to be included in the administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and so far as they are applicable to Bulgaria.

I am further instructed to state that if the Powers agree to this proposal Her Majesty's Government will at once appoint a special Ambassador to proceed to Constantinople to take part in the Conference, and if desired by the other Powers, Her Majesty's Government would not object to their two Plenipotentiaries joining in preliminary discussions for the opening of the Conference with the Plenipotentiaries of the other five Powers, which discussions should be on the same bases as those proposed for the Conference as they are stated above.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 1007.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord, *Vienna, November 14, 1876.*

WITH reference to a telegram from your Lordship dated yesterday, I mentioned to-day to Baron Orczy that Her Majesty's Government have caused the Porte to be informed that they cannot concur in the objections to the Conference which had been submitted to your Lordship by the Turkish Ambassador in London.

His Excellency observed in reply that he felt confident the Porte would accept the proposals of Her Majesty's Government when it found that they could neither be amended nor withdrawn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 1008.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 17, 1876.*

RUSSIA mobilizes six corps d'armée, four of which constitute active army, and two corps d'armée army of observation.

Troops mobilized amount to about 160,000 men and 648 guns.

No. 1009.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 17, 1876.*

PRINCE BISMARCK writes that he will make it a point to come to Berlin to see Lord Salisbury.

Prince Bismarck would therefore be very much obliged if your Lordship could let him know on what day Lord Salisbury proposes to arrive in Berlin.

No. 1010.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 17, 1876, 10·38 P.M.*

THE Emperor will be pleased to see Lord Salisbury.

No. 1011.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, November* 18.)

Tsarskoe Sélo, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Novembre*, 1876.

LES déplorables événements qui ensanglantent la presqu'île des Balcans ont profondément ému l'Europe. Les Cabinets se sont concertés et ont reconnu la nécessité de mettre un terme à cet état de choses, pour l'honneur de l'humanité et le repos général. Ils ont arrêté l'effusion du sang en imposant un armistice aux deux parties, et sont convenus de fixer les bases sur lesquelles la paix devrait être établie, afin d'offrir aux populations Chrétiennes des garanties sérieuses contre les incorrigibles abus de l'Administration Turque, ainsi que contre l'arbitraire sans frein des fonctionnaires Ottomans, et de rassurer ainsi l'Europe contre le retour périodique de ces crises sanglantes.

Le Cabinet Impérial a contribué de tous ses efforts à constituer le concert des Grandes Puissances en vue d'une question où les intérêts politiques doivent s'effacer devant l'intérêt plus général de l'humanité et du repos Européen. Il ne négligera rien de ce qui peut dépendre de lui afin que cet accord aboutisse à un résultat sérieux et solide, répondant aux exigences de la conscience publique et de la paix générale.

Mais tandis que la diplomatie délibère depuis un an, afin de traduire en faits le concert des volontés de l'Europe, la Porte a eu le loisir de convoquer du fond de l'Asie et de l'Afrique le ban et l'arrière ban des forces les moins disciplinées de l'Islamisme, de soulever le fanatisme Musulman, et d'écraser sous le poids du nombre les populations Chrétiennes en lutte pour leur existence. Les auteurs des horribles massacres qui ont révolté l'Europe, continuent à jouir de l'impunité, et à l'heure qu'il est, leur exemple propage et perpétue dans toute l'étendue de l'Empire Ottoman et sous les yeux de l'Europe indignée les mêmes actes de violence et de barbarie.

Dans ces conjonctures, fermement décidé pour sa part à poursuivre et à atteindre par tous les moyens en son pouvoir le but tracé par le concert des Grandes Puissances, Sa Majesté l'Empereur a jugé nécessaire de mobiliser une partie de son armée.

Sa Majesté Impériale ne veut pas la guerre, et fera ce qui est possible pour l'éviter. Mais elle est résolu à ne point s'arrêter tant que les principes reconnus équitables, humains, nécessaires par l'Europe entière, et auxquels le sentiment public de la Russie s'est associé avec la plus grande énergie, n'auront pas reçu leur entière exécution sanctionnée par des garanties efficaces.

Vous êtes autorisé à donner lecture et à laisser copie de la présente dépêche à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

(Translation.)

Tsarshoe Sélo, November $\frac{1}{13}$, 1876.

THE sad events which have deluged with blood the Balkan Peninsula have deeply agitated Europe.

The Cabinets have consulted together, and have recognized the necessity for the honour of humanity, and for the sake of general peace, of putting an end to this state of things.

They have put a stop to bloodshed by imposing an armistice on both parties, and have agreed to fix the basis on which peace is to be established, so as to give the Christian population serious guarantees against the incorrigible abuses of the Turkish Administration, as well as against the unbridled arbitrary proceedings of the Ottoman functionaries, and to reassure Europe against the periodical return of a crisis attended by so much bloodshed.

The Imperial Cabinet, finding itself in presence of a question where political interests should make way before the more universal interests of humanity and European peace, has done its utmost to bring about an agreement amongst the Great Powers.

For itself, it will neglect no effort in order that this agreement may bring about a practical and substantial result, and one which will satisfy the exigencies of public opinion and of general peace.

But while diplomacy has been deliberating for a whole year with a view to reduce to practice the combined wishes of Europe, the Porte has had time to summon from the recesses of Asia and Africa the ban and arrière-ban of the least disciplined forces of Islamism, to arouse Mussulman fanaticism, and to crush under the weight of its numbers

the Christian populations who are struggling for their very existence. The perpetrators of the horrible massacres which have so shocked Europe, remain unpunished, and at this very moment, their example tends to propagate and perpetuate throughout the whole of the Ottoman Empire, and in full view of indignant Europe, similar acts of violence and barbarism.

Under these circumstances, His Majesty the Emperor has deemed it necessary to mobilize a portion of his army, though he is firmly resolved, for his part, to seek after and to endeavour to obtain by all the means in his power the purposes laid down by agreement amongst the Great Powers.

His Imperial Majesty does not wish for war, and will do his utmost to avoid it. But he is determined not to halt before that the principles which have been recognized by the whole of Europe as just, humane, and necessary, and which public opinion in Russia has taken up with the greatest energy, have been fully carried out, and secured by efficient guarantees.

You are authorized to read this despatch to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to give him a copy of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GORTCHAKOW.

No. 1012.

Memorandum communicated by Count Schouvaloff, November 18, 1876.

NE doutant pas des bonnes dispositions personnelles du Comte Derby, lui demandons publication du compte rendu de Lord A. Loftus, il nous importerait que la nation Anglaise puisse juger en connaissance de cause, et être édifiée par les paroles mêmes de Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

(Translation.)

NOT doubting the personally friendly sentiments of the Earl of Derby, we request him to publish Lord A. Loftus' Report; we are anxious that the English nation should form its opinion with a full knowledge of facts, and should learn the language held by His Majesty the Emperor.

No. 1013.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 18, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 18, 1876.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has officially signified to me that, with unanimous sanction of Grand Council, the Porte agrees to Conference.

His Excellency added that the acceptance is accompanied by a few reserves, such as that the measures to be proposed by the Conference shall not interfere with the mechanism of the general administration.

No. 1014.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1876.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that, according to present arrangements, Lord Salisbury will probably arrive at Constantinople on the 1st or 2nd of December.

I have therefore to request that you will now instruct Consuls Holmes and Blunt, and any other Consuls of experience whom it may be desirable to consult, to proceed there at once in order to meet his Lordship.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1015.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 19.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the text as published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the circular dispatch of Prince Gortchakow, dated yesterday, which communicated to the Russian Representatives abroad the intention of the Emperor to mobilize a portion of his army with a view to eventualities within the Ottoman dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 1015.

Circular addressed by Prince Gortchakow to Russian Representatives abroad, Novembre $\frac{1}{13}$, 1876.

[See No. 1011.]

No. 1016.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November* 19, 1876.

THE Emperor is graciously pleased to say he will endeavour to receive Lord Salisbury on Thursday morning, if possible.

No. 1017.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 19, 1876.

I HAVE to inform you that, according to present arrangements, Lord Salisbury will arrive at Constantinople on the 1st or 2nd December, and it is my wish that you should proceed there, so as to be ready to meet his Lordship upon his arrival.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1018.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 20.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a statement from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter relative to the number of Circassian settlers in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 1018.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Larissa and Volo, November* 1, 1876.

ACCORDING to the closest and most accurate estimate I have been able to obtain,* the following is the number of Circassians, men, women and children, which, up to this time, have come to Thessaly:—

* This estimate does not include 40 Tartar families, or about 200 individuals, settled in Thessaly in 1875.

Arrived last year	.. ..	185 individuals.
„ in last May	.. ..	315 „
„ in September	.. ..	225 „
Total	.. ..	725 „

And so far as I can ascertain the distribution approximatively yet made of these is:—150 at Balanbali villages, 50 at Loxanda, 300 from Velestino at Armyro villages; total 500 individuals; and leaving, therefore, over 200 more, being the whole of the latest batch arrived, and which, I am given to understand, does not, for the present at least, seem likely to be followed by any others. In the meantime a few of these last-mentioned lot, not liking prospects before them, have left and returned to Constantinople. Others, I am told, were desirous of doing likewise, but were prevented by the authorities because they are under contract with Government, and, until the arrangements can be decided for location of the whole, they remain partly here and partly at Larissa.

There has been much sickness and not indifferent mortality among the last arrived, as well as the settled Circassians. The latter do not appear to commit excesses, but the Christians complain of occasional maltreatment and theft on their part, and even by the Mahommedans, they are looked upon, I believe, as being most objectionable neighbours.

No. 1019.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, November 4, 1876.*

I WENT to the Palace this morning and spoke to the Prince upon the subject of the mutilations of Turkish soldiers by Montenegrins, to which your Lordship's despatch of the 6th ultimo refers.

I told His Highness of the effect produced upon Her Majesty's Government by the reports which they had received, and of which I had explained to him the nature; and I stated to him that I was charged by your Lordship to urge upon him in the strongest possible manner to put a stop to these horrible outrages on humanity in the event of the recommencement of the war.

Prince Nicholas replied that he entirely shared the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government upon this matter, and that nothing was more revolting to him, as a Christian Prince, than that his subjects should have been guilty of such horrors.

At the very outset of the war he had given strict orders against pillage and devastation, as well as against the perpetration of personal outrages, and his orders had been as strictly obeyed, until the Turks at Gatzko set the bad example by killing prisoners in cold blood, and by decapitating and mutilating the dead and wounded.

In the two or three combats that immediately ensued, as soon as these facts were known the Montenegrins had retaliated in kind, but His Highness assured me, on his honour, that he was convinced that the announcement which he had then been compelled to make—that any such act would in future be punished by the execution of the offender—had been successful in putting a stop to this barbarous practice.

I should not be doing justice to His Highness if I did not add that he spoke upon this subject with deep emotion, and that no one who had heard his language and witnessed his manner could have failed to believe, as I do, that the idea that such a reproach could justly be cast upon the Montenegrins caused him the deepest pain, and that he would give much that the brilliancy of his campaign had not been tarnished by the stain of such barbarities.

Colonel Thömmel assures me that, from his own personal observation during the campaign, he can vouch for the truth and accuracy of the Prince's statements.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 1020.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 20.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, November* 6, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the letters sent yesterday respecting the armistice by the Montenegrin commanders to Dervish and Moukhtar Pashas. That to the latter was written in Slav; and both are from the dictation of the Prince, and transmitted by telegraph.

General Ignatiew telegraphed yesterday to His Highness that the Porte had made no demand about the revictualling of Nicsics, as the garrison is supplied with provisions which will last till the spring.

Signor Durando started this morning for Ragusa to meet the foreign delimitation Delegates; and Colonel Bogolouboff, the Russian Military Agent here, who will represent his Government on the demarkation Commission, will go thither to-morrow or next day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1020.

M. Petrovich to Dervish Pasha.

M. le Maréchal, *Rogami, le* 24 Octobre / 5 Novembre, 1876.

J'AI reçu de mon Gouvernement en date du 21 Octobre / 2 Novembre, l'avis que la Sublime Porte, sur la proposition de la Russie, a accepté la conclusion d'un armistice de deux mois à partir du 20 Octobre / 1 Novembre.

Suivant les ordres que je reçois, je prends les mesures nécessaires pour que, de notre côté, les hostilités soient immédiatement suspendues, et je ne doute pas que votre Excellence en ait fait autant de son côté.

La démarcation des positions respectivement occupées par votre armée et par celle que je commande est facile à établir. Elle doit partir du Sutterman et suivre une ligne tirée sur Sestané au bord du lac de Scutari. Du lac elle doit suivre la limite des deux Etats, jusqu'au confluent de la Zeta et de la Moratcha, puis le pied des hauteurs dans la plaine de Podgoritza jusqu'à la Zievna.

Je ne peux me dispenser de vous dire que j'ai eu le regret de constater par moi même que, le 22/3, la forteresse de Spuz a continué à tirer sur nos positions. Je suis certain que ce ne peut être qu'en contravention de vos instructions, mais je vous serai obligé de donner des ordres stricts pour que le fait ne se renouvelle pas.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) B. PETROVICH.

(Translation.)

M. le Maréchal, *Rogami,* October 24 / November 5, 1876.

I HAVE received from my Government, under date of the 21st October / 5th November, the announcement that the Sublime Porte, on the proposal of Russia, has accepted the conclusion of an armistice of two months, to commence from the 20th October / 1st November.

In pursuance of the orders I have received, I am taking the necessary steps in order that, on our side, hostilities may be immediately suspended, and I have no doubt that your Excellency has done likewise on your part.

The demarcation of the positions respectively held by your army and by the one which I command will be easily established. It should start from the Sutterman, and follow a line drawn on Sestané on the shore of the Lake of Scutari. From the lake it should follow the boundary of the two States, as far as the confluence of the Zeta and the Moratcha, then the foot of the heights in the plain of Podgoritza, as far as Zievna.

I am unable to refrain from telling you that I with regret myself witnessed that, on the 22nd October / 3rd November, the fortress of Spuz was continuing to fire upon our positions. I feel sure that this could only have taken place in contravention of your instructions; but I would feel obliged by your giving strict orders that this may not be repeated.

I take, &c.
(Signed) B. PETROVITCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1020.

M. Vukotich to Moukhtar Pasha.

(Traduction.)

M. le Maréchal, *Grahowatz, le* 24 Octobre / 5 Novembre, 1876.

LE 21 de ce mois à midi mon Gouvernement m'annonça que la Sublime Porte, sur la proposition de la Russie, accepte un armistice de deux mois à partir du 20 courant.

En conséquence, pour éviter tout malentendu et tout conflit pendant ce laps de temps, je me fais un devoir de vous indiquer la ligne que l'armée sous mon commandement continuera à occuper. Cette ligne partant de Sutorina se dirige à travers Zubzi sur Grahowatz; de là longeant la frontière de Baniani, sur Plana; puis en suivant la route par Korito, sur Zernitza Stepen; ensuite, par Kerstatz et Ravno, elle rejoint le confluent de la Piva et de la Tara.

Outre l'armée qui fait face à vos positions à Grahowatz, les commandants des corps détachés placés à Korito, Kerstatz, Ravno, et du poste de Sutorina reçoivent de moi l'ordre d'interdire tout mouvement au delà de la ligne indiquée. En même temps, j'en informe votre Excellence nos "tchettas" qui se trouvent en dehors de cette ligne sont rappelés aujourd'hui même par des exprès, et rejoindront de suite leurs corps respectifs.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) P. VUKOTICH.

(Translation.)

M. le Maréchal, *Grahowatz*, October 24 / November 5, 1876.

ON the 21st of this month, at noon, my Government informed me that the Sublime Porte, on the proposal of Russia, had accepted an armistice of two months to date from the 20th instant.

Consequently, to avoid any misunderstanding and any conflict during this lapse o time, I consider it my duty to indicate to you the line which the army under my command will continue to occupy. This line starts from Sutorina, extends across Zubzi towards Grahowatz; thence skirts the Baniani frontier on Plana; then follows the road viâ Korito on Zernitza Stepen; afterwards by Kerstatz and Ravno, it joins the confluence of the Piva and the Tara.

Besides the army which confronts your positions at Grahowatz, the commanders of the detached corps stationed at Korito, Kerstatz, Ravno, and of the post at Sutorina, have received from me the order to forbid all movement beyond the line indicated. At the same time, I inform your Excellency that our "tchettas," which are stationed beyond this line, have been to-day recalled by special messengers, and will immediately rejoin their respective corps.

Please, &c.

(Signed) P. VUKOTICH.

No. 1021.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, November* 9, 1876.

IN all my recent conversations with Prince Nicholas, His Highness has reverted to the hope which he entertains that Her Majesty's Government will use their influence at Constantinople to obtain for him the cession of a port on the Adriatic. The Prince is very well aware that Austria, however willing she may be to support his views in regard to other extensions of the Montenegrin frontier, is not so anxious to help him to a seaport which will render him independent of the present transit route viâ Cattaro; and that he cannot therefore count upon the joint action of the English and Austrian Governments in this particular direction.

I hope that I need not assure your Lordship that I have never allowed the Prince to imagine that Her Majesty's Government have expressed any opinion in favour of any territorial concessions whatever to Montenegro. To all His Highness's observations I have invariably replied that I would do my best to report His Highness's observations faithfully; but that I have no instructions from Her Majesty's Government upon the subject other than those originally telegraphed to me before my departure from Ragusa, in which your Lordship informed me that Her Majesty's Government had proposed to the Porte to make peace with Montenegro on the basis of the *status quo ante*.

Your Lordship is, however, aware that for many months past I have given my fullest adhesion to the view entertained by those who have studied this question for years on the spot, and who think that the only possible policy towards Montenegro is one of conciliation and generosity. The other alternative—that of suppression by force—Turkey has shown herself utterly incapable of executing. Montenegro, in the position which she has hitherto been compelled to adopt, is a standing menace to the Porte; and, as I expressed it in a former despatch, a disaster for Europe. But I see no reason why this dangerous situation should not be converted into one not only harmless, but beneficent; nor why, as Prince Nicholas says, he should not become a good and useful friend to the Porte.

The latter has now, I presume, decided upon concessions of some kind as the price of future tranquillity, and will, in all probability, recognise without difficulty that the cession of those hill districts, inhabited by tribes over whom she has never had more than a nominal control, will redound to her advantage, and not to her detriment. These considerations, however, do not apply to the question of a seaport, which, it seems to me, is of infinitely more importance to the Western Powers than to the three Empires, and will very probably be dropped altogether by the latter in the forthcoming negotiations. I wish to lay no undue stress upon the commercial advantages which would result to Montenegro from such a possession. They would be at first, and for some time, probably, inconsiderable; for much will have to be taught to these people before they will learn to profit by the opportunity of direct commercial contact with foreign nations. But I think that it is of consequence to obtain for the Western Powers means of access to, and communication with, the Principality, independent of the present channels; and of attempting, in however small a degree, to exercise that civilizing influence which must inevitably attend even the early development of commercial enterprise.

I trust that your Lordship will not think that I am indulging in unfounded hopes or exaggerated anticipations of the sudden and absolute conversion of these restless mountaineers, whose sole pursuits hitherto have been pastoral and agricultural (and these rather desultory than continuous), into a pacific and industrious population. It is true that the Prince assures me that opportunity alone is wanting to effect such a transmutation; but I do not consider that I have as yet sufficient knowledge of the country to subscribe unhesitatingly to such an opinion. But I think that the chances of success are so promising that the experiment is well worth trying upon the grounds upon which I have recommended it. Moreover, as Montenegro has no claim whatever for any such concession, the Porte would, in making it, be acting with a generosity which would, in my belief, be well bestowed. From what I see and hear, the Montenegrins are by no means averse to the notion that they should make friends with their neighbours, and have lately been at pains to show this.

With regard to the danger that a Montenegrin seaport would become a Russian harbour, I am of opinion that a glance at the map suffices to demonstrate that such an apprehension is illusory. There is no harbour that Turkey could concede to the Principality which could be made use of for any such purpose, even if the Porte went so far in generosity as to cede the district of Antivari.

In the view of Her Majesty's Government there may be other considerations, of which I have no knowledge, which may disincline them to favour the policy I have ventured to recommend. All that I can do is to submit to your Lordship the conclusions which I have formed after much reflection, and many conversations with persons of conflicting opinions and diverse nationalities.

The policy of the Porte towards Montenegro has hitherto been a failure; a continuance in that policy threatens increased disasters; is it not then worth the while of the Ottoman Government to consider seriously whether a policy of conciliation and generosity may not repair past misfortunes and ensure future tranquillity?

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 1022.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 20.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, November* 9, 1876.

M. STANKO RADONICH, the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has returned to Cettigné from his military command in the field, communicated to me

to-day, by order of Prince Nicholas, the letters of which the inclosed are copies, and which relate to the correspondence transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch of the 6th instant.

Constant Pasha is to arrive at Cettigné this evening; but as General Ignatiew has telegraphed that all questions of principle are to be discussed at Constantinople, it is not easy to see what object his journey will serve.

The Italian Agent has gone to Ragusa; the Servian Envoy starts for Belgrade to-morrow; the Austrian Agent has been summoned at once to Vienna by Count Andrassy; and the French Agent has telegraphed to the Duc Decazes that his presence in Montenegro is no longer necessary. The Russian Agent will of course not leave the Prince as long as I am here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1022.

Dervish Pasha to M. Petrovich.

M. le Commandant, *Podgoritza, le* $\frac{24 \text{ Octobre}}{5 \text{ Novembre}}$, 1876.

J'ACCUSE réception de votre lettre du $\frac{24 \text{ Octobre}}{5 \text{ Novembre}}$, 1876. Suivant les ordres que j'ai reçus de Constantinople, les troupes Impériales appartenant à la division militaire de Scutari (d'Albanie) ont reçu de ma part l'ordre nécessaire de cesser, à partir de la date connue, toute opération offensive; tout en comptant cependant comme autant de positions militaires, les points qu'elles ont occupés. Vous pouvez être sûr en même temps que nos troupes n'agiront pas même d'une manière défensive sans y être provoquées de votre part.

Quant à une autre question qui est mentionnée dans votre lettre, vu qu'elle est complétement étrangère aux opérations militaires, je ne puis vous y répondre d'aucune façon sans y avoir reçu de Constantinople des instructions spéciales sur ce sujet. Je ne doute pas que vous en conviendrez vous aussi.

J'aime à croire qu'on n'ait pas tiré de la citadelle de Spuz postérieurement aux ordres que j'ai donnés à la garnison de cette place. Toutefois j'ai ordonné qu'on aille aux informations pour vérifier ce fait.

Cependant, il est fort probable, si une telle chose eut lieu effectivement, que la cause en ait été qu'un certain nombre de vos hommes se soient approchés tout armés de nos positions militaires avant que nous nous entendions ensemble sur ce que nous avons à faire.

En répondant aux expressions amicales que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser à cette occasion, je m'empresse d'en faire autant et de vous prier d'agréer, &c.

Le Maréchal Commandant-en-chef la Division
Militaire de Scutari (Albanie),
(Signé) DERVISH.

(Translation.)

M. le Commandant, *Podgoritza,* $\frac{\text{October } 24}{\text{November } 5}$, 1876.

I ACKNOWLEDGE the receipt of your letter of the $\frac{24\text{th October}}{5\text{th November}}$, 1876. In accordance with the instructions I have received from Constantinople, the Imperial troops belonging to the Scutari military division (Albanian) have received from me the necessary orders to cease all offensive operations from the recognized date, counting, however, as so many military positions, the points which they have occupied. You may at the same time be assured that our troops will not even act on the defensive without they are provoked thereto by your side.

As to another question alluded to in your letter, seeing that it is completely foreign to military operations, I cannot reply to it in any way without receiving special instructions from Constantinople on the subject. I have no doubt you also will agree with me in this.

I venture to hope that no shots have been fired from the Citadel of Spuz subsequent to the orders I gave to the garrison of that place. I have, however, ordered information to be obtained to verify this.

Nevertheless, if such a thing really took place, it most probably arose from a certain number of your men, fully armed, approaching our military positions before we had agreed together upon what was to be done.

In responding to the friendly expressions which you have been good enough to address to me on this occasion, I hasten to do the same, and to beg you to accept, &c.,

(Signed) DERVISH,
Marshal, Commander-in-chief of the Military Division of Scutari (Albania).

Inclosure 3 in No. 1022.

Moukhtar Pasha to M. Vukotich.

M. le Voivode, *Zaslap, le 7 Novembre,* 1876.

CONFORMEMENT à la lettre que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous adresser hier, son Excellence Constant Pacha, Gouverneur du Sandjak de Gatzko, revêtu de la qualité de délégué du commandement général de l'armée Impériale de l'Herzégovine, se rend à Grahowo, à l'effet de s'entendre avec vous au sujet de la démarcation des limites pendant les deux mois d'armistice. Je suis certain, M. le Voivode, que son Excellence Constant Pacha ne rencontrera aucune difficulté de votre part dans l'accomplissement de sa mission à la satisfaction des partis intéressés.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) AHMED MOUKTAR.

(Translation.)

M. le Voivode, *Zaslap, November 7,* 1876.

IN accordance with the letter which I had the honour to address to you yesterday, his Excellency Constant Pasha, the Governor of the Sandjak of Gatzko, invested with the office of delegate from the headquarters of the Imperial army of the Herzegovina, proceeds to Grahowo in order to arrive at an understanding with you on the subject of the demarcation of the boundaries during the two months' armistice.

I am sure, M. le Voivode, that his Excellency Constant Pasha will meet with no difficulty from you in accomplishing his mission to the satisfaction of the parties interested.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) AHMED MOUKTAR.

No. 1023.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, November* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, and of its inclosure, the copy of a telegram from the French and Italian Consuls at Cettigné to Moukhtar Pasha, regarding the line of demarcation between the Turkish and Montenegrin forces during the armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1023.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Sir, *Mostar, November 7,* 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a telegraphic despatch addressed by the French and Italian Consuls at Cettigné to his Excellency Moukhtar Pasha, and forwarded through the Ottoman Consulate at Ragusa to his Excellency Aali Pasha, Governor of the Herzegovina. Aali Pasha has, however, refused to take any action in the matter, as he says, in the absence of all instructions from his Government, he cannot recognize the right of MM. Ceccaldi and Durando to make a similar communication. He has therefore left the Ottoman Consul at Ragusa to forward this despatch, if he thinks fit, to Moukhtar Pasha.

It is thought that Prince Nicholas, in fixing this line of demarcation between the

Montenegrin and Turkish forces during the armistice, is only feeling his way towards eventually demanding an extension of his frontiers to those limits, and from a military point of view it would not be a disadvantageous line for the Porte. It would form a much stronger and more defensible frontier than the actual one, and, indeed, beyond it the Turkish force has never been able to hold its ground, while from a material point of view, with the exception of the Plain of Nicksich, the loss would be trifling to Turkey, and it is generally admitted that in any future rectification of the frontier whatever the Porte cannot hope to retain Nicksich.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1023.

Telegram from the French and Italian Consuls at Cettigné to Moukhtar Pasha.

Raguse, le 5 Octobre, 1876.

LE Commandant-en-chef des forces Monténégrines en Herzégovine, par ordre du Prince Nicolas, fait connaître à votre Excellence la ligne occupée par les troupes sous ses ordres, savoir : Une ligne partant de Sutorina se dirigeant à travers Zubci sur Grticovatz, de là longeant la frontière de Banjani sur Plana, puis suivant la route par Korito sur Zernitz-astéssen, ensuite rejoignant par Kristach à Ravno le confluent de la Piva et de la Tara. Outre l'armée qui fait face à vos positions a Grahovatz, les commandants des corps détachés placés à Kristach, Ravno, Sutorina reçoivent ordre d'interdire tout mouvement au delà de la ligne sus-indiquée, et toutes les Tchetas Monténégrines en dehors de cette ligne sont rappelées.

Son Altesse nous a priés, en notre qualité de Délégués des Puissances, de prendre acte de cette démarche à laquelle répondra sans doute une communication analogue de votre Excellence.

(Signé) COLONNA.
DURANDO.

(Translation.)

Ragusa, October 5, 1876.

THE Commander-in-Chief of the Montenegrin forces in the Herzegovina, by order of Prince Nicholas, makes known to your Excellency the line occupied by the troops under his orders, viz., a line leaving Sutorina, going across Zubci on Grticovatz, thence parallel with the frontier of Benjani on Plana; then following the road viâ Korito on Zernitz-Astessen, then joining by Kristach to Ravno the confluent of the Piva and the Tara. In addition to the army which faces your positions at Grahovatz, the commanders of detached corps posted at Kristach, Ravno, Sutorina receive the order to forbid all movement beyond the above-mentioned line, and all the Montenegrin Tchetas without this line are recalled.

His Highness has begged us, in our capacity of Delegates of the Powers, to take notice of this proceeding, which will doubtless be answered by a like communication from your Excellency.

(Signed) COLONNA.
DURANDO.

No. 1024.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

Belgrade, November 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed by me this day to Sir Henry Elliot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 1024.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, November* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, owing to some intelligence received by General Tchernaieff from Russia, that officer has had some reason to postpone his intended visit to his country, and he remains at Belgrade for the present.

Under his advice Prince Milan intends, I learn, to garrison Belgrade and Kragouyévatz almost entirely with Russian soldiers in his service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 1025.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

My Lord, *Berlin, November* 18, 1876.

YOUR Lordship's despatch of the 13th instant has only reached me to-day by Queen's Messenger, and the question it conveys in regard to the acceptance of the Conference by the German Government was answered by me in my despatch to your Lordship of the 10th instant.

The German Government, faithful to their principle of benevolent neutrality, waited until the other Guaranteeing Powers were agreed to accept the bases proposed by Her Majesty's Government, before they declared their own official acceptance of the programme they had in principle already adhered to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 1026.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 20, 1876.

YOUR telegraphic despatch stating that the Porte had agreed, after the assembling of a General Council on the 18th instant, to the proposed Conference having been received, the Marquis of Salisbury left England this morning, with the members of the Special Embassy, to proceed to Constantinople.

As your Excellency is already aware, the proposals made by Her Majesty's Government on the 4th instant have already been accepted by the Governments of the other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1027.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 21.)

(Extract.) *Yalta, November* 5, 1876.

I HAD the honour to be invited with the German Ambassador General von Schweinitz to the Imperial table at Livadia to-day.

The Emperor expressed to me the satisfaction with which he had read my despatch to your Lordship, which I left in the hands of Prince Gortchakow, reporting what had passed at my audience of His Majesty, observing that I had reported with great exactness the opinions he had expressed, and added that I had even reported them in the very words used by His Majesty.

His Majesty is thanking me for having been the truthful exponent of his feelings and intentions, expressed his gratification that they had been received by Her Majesty's Government with the greatest satisfaction, which I had communicated to this morning to Prince Gortchakow in conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's telegram of the 4th instant.

Previous to going to Livadia I had immediately on their receipt communicated to Prince Gortchakow, as contained in the annexed memorandum, your Lordship's proposals and basis for a Conference. They had been submitted to the Emperor, who expressed to me this evening his approval of them, except in regard to the employment of one word.

His Majesty expressed a wish that the term "teritorial" preceding the phrase "integrity of the Ottoman Empire" should be omitted, and that the wording of Article 1 should be simply "the independence and integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

The Emperor then expressed to me his regret on learning the intended departure of the French Ambassador at Constantinople, as his absence would cause a delay of at least fifteen days' before the preliminaries could be discussed.

Inclosure in No. 1027.

Substance of Telegram received November 5, communicated to Prince Gortchakow.

IT appearing to Her Majesty's Government that there is some hesitation about a formal proposal of Conference, they have determined to make such a proposal to the Powers.

You are, therefore, to propose to the Imperial Government that a Conference should be held forthwith at Constantinople, in which all the Guaranteeing Powers and the Porte shall take part, and each Government may have two Representatives.

Her Majesty's Government propose the following bases for the deliberations of Conference:—

1. The independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.
2. A declaration that the Powers do not seek for territorial advantages, exclusive influence, or commercial concessions, as in the Protocols of September 17, 1840, and of August 3, 1860.
3. The terms proposed to the Porte by Sir H. Elliot, in accordance with the Earl of Derby's instructions of September 21st last.

Should the Powers consent to this proposal of Her Majesty's Government, a Special Ambassador will be at once appointed with orders to go to Constantinople to take part in the proposed Conference.

Her Majesty's Government would not object if desired by the other Powers that their two Plenipotentiaries should join in the preliminaries, before the opening of the Conference, with the Plenipotentiaries of the other Powers. The same bases proposed for the Conference to be observed in the preliminary discussions.

No. 1028.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 21.)

My Lord, *Yalta, November 6, 1876.*

I HAD an interview with Prince Gortchakow this morning, in order to learn the opinions and views of the Imperial Government in regard to your Lordship's proposals and bases for a Conference at Constantinople, which, as reported in my despatch of yesterday's date, I had communicated to his Highness yesterday evening.

His Highness stated that he agreed to those proposals with one single exception, namely, the term "territorial" preceding the phrase "integrity of the Ottoman Empire," in Article 1.

His Highness stated that the Imperial Government could not accept that term, as it would exclude the possibility of a provisional occupation, which, in the interest of the Ottoman Empire itself, he considers will still be necessary for the security of the Christian population, and for the maintenance of peace and order during the introduction of the administrative reforms.

His Highness stated that there was still great agitation in Bulgaria as well as in Bosnia, and that excesses, with loss of life, were still being perpetrated, and that nothing but material force would restore peace and tranquillity.

There was no question of disturbing the integrity of the Empire. He stated most positively that Russia did not covet an inch of Turkish territory. If an occupation became necessary, it would be provisional, and would only continue until the

present excited feelings were calmed down, and the administration placed on a regular and peaceable footing.

His Highness cited the precedent of Syria, to which the Protocol in 1860, mentioned in your Lordship's proposal, referred. He should be perfectly willing that Russia should be the "mandataire" of Europe, as were England and France in Syria, nor should he object to any other Power participating in an occupation. He foresees an occupation as an inevitable necessity, without which peace and order will never be restored, nor the contemplated reforms introduced.

In regard to the third point, viz., the terms proposed in your Lordship's instructions to Sir Henry Elliot of September 21, Prince Gortchakow stated that, in accepting them as a basis, he must say that, on the question of autonomy, his views were more expansive than those of Her Majesty's Government. This was, however, a question which would form matter for deliberation in the Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 1029.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 21.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 15, 1876.*

THE Emperor held a review of the Imperial Guards and of the adjacent garrisons this morning in the Champ de Mars.

On the termination of it, His Majesty addressed the Grand Duke Nicolas Nicolaievich, his staff, and the officer of his guard.

His Majesty in referring to the mobilization of a portion of his army, expressed a hope that it would not be necessary to mobilize his guards. He expressed his thanks to the Grand Duke Nicolas for the efficient state of the guards, and announced the appointment of His Imperial Highness to command the active army, adding that His Imperial Highness carried with him the best wishes of all for his success.

The Emperor was received by the troops and a vast concourse of spectators who were present at the review, with great enthusiasm.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 1030.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 21.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, November 15, 1876.*

I HAD an interview to-day with Prince Gortchakow, when, in conformity with your Lordship's instructions, I placed in the hands of his Highness a copy of your Lordship's despatch of the 30th ultimo.

I explained to his Highness the cause of the delay in communicating this despatch to the Imperial Government, the messenger who had been the bearer of it having only arrived in the Crimea after my departure.

Prince Gortchacow said that your Lordship had excused to Count Schouvaloff the publication of this despatch previous to its delivery, the motive for which his Highness perfectly understood, adding, that he had likewise deemed it desirable to publish the text of the Circulars announcing the mobilization, before its official communication to the several Governments.

In regard to that Circular, his Highness observed that the mobilization did not imply war, and he expressed the sincere desire of the Imperial Government to maintain the European concert.

He dwelt on the necessity imposed on the Imperial Government in conformity with the public opinion of the country to put an end to the delays by which the Porte had hitherto obstructed all attempts for pacification, and observed that Russia could no longer passively permit the continuance of the excesses which were being perpetrated. "We can no longer allow, said his Highness, the Christian population to be slaughtered, and women and children exposed to barbarous atrocities, such as have been, and are even now being committed by the Turks.

"It is not a political question, it is one of humanity, which equally regards all Europe. We must insist on such reforms as will ensure the safety of the Christian population and on an efficient gurantee for their execution. In this we cannot yield:—'Nous ne fléchirons pas.'"

No. 1031.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 21.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 15, 1876.

ON visiting Prince Gortchakow this morning, at Czarskoe, I found his Highness rather disturbed in mind by the speech of the Earl of Beaconsfield at the Lord Mayor's banquet, which his Highness feared would have a bad effect at Constantinople, and would encourage the Porte in a policy of resistance to the counsels of Europe.

I observed to his Highness that the Prime Minister had in his speech especially referred to the respect of Treaties, and I reminded his Highness that in our conversation at Orianda, his Highness referred to the same subject, and very much in the same language, observing to me that he alone, on the occasion of the dissolution of the German Confederation, had remonstrated against the destruction of a political body created and guaranteed by an European Treaty.

Prince Gortchakow replied that England had raised no objection in regard to an infraction of Treaties during the political changes in Italy and Germany; on the contrary, had not only accepted, but approved them.

In regard to the Treaty of 1856, his Highness observed that engagements were then taken by Turkey, in regard to the Christian populations, which had never been fulfilled, and that consequently it was Turkey who had essentially violated the Treaty. During the twenty years which had intervened he had twice called the attention of Europe to the position of the Christians under Mussulman rule, but with no result. His Highness maintained that by the Treaty of 1856 Christian Europe was bound to exact from the Porte a due observance of the engagements it had taken. Russia desired to act with Europe in obtaining this result, but she was determined to put an end to the oppression to which the Christian populations in the East were exposed under Turkish rule.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a leading article from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," which has evidently emanated from an official source.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 1032.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 21.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 17, 1876.

I ONLY received your Lordship's despatch of the 4th instant, containing the formal invitation of Her Majesty's Government to a Conference to be held at Constantinople, and submitting the bases for the deliberation of the Conference after leaving the Crimea.

On receipt of your Lordship's telegram at Yalta, I placed in the hands of Prince Gortchakow a Memorandum of the proposals of Her Majesty's Government which have been since agreed to by the Imperial Government.

I thought it, however, desirable to record in an official form the proposals as contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 4th instant, and I, accordingly, on my return here addressed an official note to Prince Gortchakhow, embodying the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy to your Lordship. I have explained to the Chancellor my reason for doing so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 1032.

Lord A. Loftus to Prince Gortchakow.

Mon Prince, *St. Petersburgh, November* 14, 1876.

WITH reference to the Memorandum which I had the honour to place in the hands of your Highness at Orianda on the 5th instant, stating the terms on which I was instructed by telegraph to propose to the Imperial Government that a Conference should be held at Constantinople, I think it advisable to record those terms in an official note, as also the points which Her Majesty's Government submitted as the bases for the deliberations of the Conference.

Her Majesty's Government believe, from the communication which they have received from the Powers, that there is a general feeling that the only solution of the questions arising out of recent events in Turkey, is to be found in a Conference, but that there is some hesitation felt in formally proposing it.

Under these circumstances, and with a view of bringing about a satisfactory settlement of those questions, Her Majesty's Government have determined to renew the suggestion made by them on the 5th ultimo, and to take the initiative in proposing that a Conference should be held forthwith at Constantinople, in which all the Guaranteeing Powers and the Porte should take part, and each Government should be at liberty to appoint two Plenipotentiaries to represent it.

Her Majesty's Government further submit, as the bases for the deliberations of the Conference:—

1. The independence and the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

2. A declaration that the Powers do not intend to seek for, and will not seek for, any territorial advantages, any exclusive influence, or any concession with regard to the commerce of their subjects which those of every other nation may not equally obtain.

This declaration was made on the 17th September, 1840, in the Protocol for the Pacification of the Levant; and again, August 3rd, 1860, in regard to the Pacification of Syria.

3. The bases of pacification proposed to the Porte on the 21st of September, viz.:—

(*a.*) The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

(*b.*) That the Porte should simultaneously undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy, by which is to be understood a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against maladministration in Bulgaria.

The reforms already agreed to by the Porte, in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers, on the 13th of February last, to be included in the administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and so far as they may be applicable for Bulgaria.

Her Majesty's Government have also desired that in proposing to the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Russia a Conference on these bases, I should state that if this proposal meets with general acceptance, Her Majesty's Government will lose no time in appointing a special Ambassador to proceed to Constantinople to take part in the Conference.

If the other Powers thought it advisable Her Majesty's Government would not object to their Plenipotentiaries joining in preliminary discussions with the Plenipotentiaries of the other five Guaranteeing Powers before the opening of the Conference. These discussions to be on the same bases as those proposed for the Conference.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 1033.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 21.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres,
le 20 *Novembre*, 1876.

My Lord,

LA haute sollicitude que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a de tout temps témoignée pour le maintien intact de l'intégrité et de l'indépendance de l'Empire Ottoman, ainsi que les dispositions bienveillantes qu'il a constamment montrées à la Sublime Porte dans le cours des derniers événements, sont l'objet de la reconnaissance du Gouvernement Impérial.

Pénétrée de ce sentiment, et considérant que l'Angleterre s'est mise d'accord avec les autres Grandes Puissances pour aplanir les difficultés actuelles au moyen d'une Conférence, et que le but réel des Gouvernements est, tout en maintenant l'intégrité et l'indépendance de l'Empire, d'aviser à la mise à exécution de réformes propres à assurer le bien-être et la sécurité des sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, la Sublime Porte, par déférence envers les Grandes Puissances, ses amies et alliées, n'hésite pas à consentir à la réunion à Constantinople de la Conférence proposée.

Elle espère que les Plénipotentiaires appelés à en faire partie ne s'écarteront point des dispositions du Traité de Paris; qu'ils s'attacheront à préserver de toute atteinte les droits et le prestige du pouvoir souverain qui, eu égard aux mœurs et aux idées des populations de l'Empire, constituent le fondement moral de l'autorité; qu'ils voudront bien s'abstenir de tout ce qui pourrait être moralement et matériellement préjudiciable à l'Administration intérieure de l'Empire, et qu'ils auront en vue le respect des Traités dont les Grandes Puissances ont toujours conseillé à la Sublime Porte la stricte observation.

Ces considérations inspirent au Gouvernement Impérial une grande confiance dans le résultat satisfaisant de la Conférence; et il reste convaincu que les Grandes Puissances voudront bien reconnaître, de leur côté, la haute valeur des réformes et des institutions nouvelles à l'application desquelles la Sublime Porte procède en ce moment pour toute l'étendue de l'Empire, et qui, tout en assurant la sécurité et le bien-être des populations de certaines provinces sur lesquelles se porte plus spécialement la sollicitude des Puissances, satisferont dans la plus large mesure à leurs besoins légitimes.

Heureux d'être chargé de communiquer ce qui précède à votre Excellence au nom du Gouvernement Impérial, je saisis, &c.,

(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

Imperial Ottoman Embassy, London,
November 20, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Imperial Government is most grateful for the great anxiety which the Government of Her Britannic Majesty has always shown for the maintenance intact of the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire, as well as for the friendly dispositions evinced towards the Sublime Porte during the course of recent events.

Inspired by this feeling, and considering that England has concerted with the other Powers to remove the present difficulties by means of a Conference, and that the real object of the Governments is, while maintaining the integrity and independence of the Empire, to provide for the carrying out of reforms calculated to secure the welfare and security of the subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, the Sublime Porte, out of deference towards the Great Powers, its friends and allies, does not hesitate to consent to the assembling at Constantinople of the proposed Conference.

It hopes that the Plenipotentiaries, who are to take part in the Conference, will strictly adhere to the dispositions of the Treaty of Paris; that they will endeavour to protect from all attack the rights and prestige of the Sovereign Power, which, considering the customs and ideas of the population of the Empire, constitute the moral foundation of authority; that they will avoid everything which might be morally or materially prejudicial to the internal administration of the Empire, and that they will keep in sight that respect for Treaties, the strict observance of which the Great Powers have so constantly recommended to the Sublime Porte.

These reflections fill the Imperial Government with great hope as to a satisfactory result of the Conference; and it is convinced that the Great Powers will recognize, on their side, the great value of the reforms and new institutions, which the Sublime Porte is about to apply to the whole Empire, and which, while guaranteeing the security and welfare of the populations of certain provinces, on whose behalf the Powers more especially interest themselves, will completely satisfy their legitimate wants.

I am happy to be instructed to communicate the above to your Excellency, and I avail, &c.

(Signed) MUSURUS.

No. 1034.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 21, 1876.*

THE Emperor desires to inform Lord Salisbury that he will receive his Lordship on Thursday at 1 o clock. Prince Bismarck will be at Lord Salisbury's disposal on Wednesday evening if convenient to his Lordship.

No. 1035.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 21, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador has called upon me, and said that he is instructed by his Government to request that the report of your Excellency's conversation at Livadia with His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia should be made public, as it contained assurances which were of a nature to tranquillise public feeling.

I informed his Excellency in reply that, although the production of documents of this kind relating to a negotiation actually in progress was not customary in this country, I could not, under the circumstances, hesitate to make an exception, and the despatch in question should appear without delay. I thought its publication might be opportune, since the last few days had brought us the intelligence of the mobilisation of a considerable Russian force, and of the emission of the new Russian loan for 100,000,000 roubles.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1036.

M. Contostavlos to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, November 22.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* $\frac{23 \text{ Octobre}}{4 \text{ Novembre}}$, 1876.

FAISANT suite à mes précédentes dépêches, je crois devoir porter à votre connaissance qu'il résulte d'informations que j'ai tout lieu de considérer dignes de foi que la Porte, loin de renoncer à son projet d'établir des colonies Circassiennes dans les provinces Grecques de la Turquie, a envoyé un ordre secret au Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Janina, par lequel elle désigne les localités de la Thessalie où elle se propose d'établir des colons Circassiens au nombre de 100,000 âmes.

De plus, le Gouvernement Ottoman aurait l'intention de faire venir dans le même but des Arabes de Yemen.

Je crois inutile de faire ressortir toute la gravité de ces renseignements. Il n'est plus permis de douter que le Gouvernement Ottoman, dans un but facile à comprendre, cherche par tous les moyens possibles à transplanter l'élément Asiatique, avec tout son cortége d'habitudes barbares, dans la partie Européenne de ses Etats, et, notamment, dans les provinces Grecques de l'Empire.

Or, je crois inutile de répéter ici ce que j'ai déjà expliqué dans mes précédentes dépêches, à savoir, qu'une pareille mesure, si elle venait à se réaliser, constituerait un danger permanent pour la sécurité de nos frontières en même temps qu'elle serait un coup mortel porté à l'humanité et la civilisation.

Les Puissances qui ont contribué à la formation du Royaume Hellénique permettront-elles qu'il soit exposé à des dangers aussi graves? L'Europe nous a donné trop de preuves de sa sollicitude pour ne pas être convaincus qu'elle prendra encore en mains nos intérêts et, dans cette conviction, j'espère que les Grandes Puissances imposeront à la Porte l'engagement de ne pas modifier les conditions éthnologiques de ses populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie d'Europe par l'introduction d'éléments hétéroclites, Circassiens et autres.

La nécessité d'un pareil engagement se fait sentir impérieusement, et le moment actuel serait des plus opportuns pour réaliser une pensée aussi généreuse.

Je ne saurais donc vous recommander assez d'agir dans ce sens auprès du Cabinet de Sa Majesté Britannique conformément à mes précédentes instructions.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Athens*, October 23, November 4, 1876.

WITH reference to my preceding despatches, I think it right to bring to your notice that it appears from information that I have every reason to consider trustworthy, that the Porte, far from renouncing its project of establishing Circassian colonies in the Greek provinces of Turkey, has sent a secret order to the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Janina, in which it points out the places in Thessaly where it proposes to establish Circassian colonies to the number of 100,000 souls.

Moreover, the Ottoman Government seems to have the intention of bringing over some Arabs from Yemen with the same object

I think it unnecessary to dwell on the great gravity of this information. It can no longer be doubted that the Ottoman Government, with an object easy to understand, is striving in every possible manner to transplant the Asiatic element with all its accompanying barbarous habits into the European part of these states, and more particularly into the Greek provinces of the Empire.

Now, I think it is useless to repeat here that which I have already explained in my preceding despatches, viz., that such a measure, if carried out, would constitute a standing menace to the security of our frontiers, at the same time that it would be a fatal blow struck at humanity and civilization.

Will the Powers which have contributed to form the Greek Kingdom permit it to be exposed to such grave dangers? Europe has given us too many proofs of her solicitude for us not to be convinced that she will take our interests in hand again, and with this conviction I hope that the Great Powers will impose on the Porte an engagement not to modify the ethnological conditions of the Christian populations in Turkey of Europe by the introduction of heteroclite elements, Circassians and others.

The necessity of an engagement of this kind is imperatively felt, and the present moment would be a most opportune one to realize so generous an idea.

I cannot, therefore, too urgently request you to take steps in this sense towards the Cabinet of Her Britannic Majesty, in accordance with my previous instructions.

No. 1037

M. Contostavlos to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, November 22.*)

Monsieur, *Athènes*, 23 Octobre, 4 Novembre, 1876.

VOUS connaissez déjà, par mes communications précédentes, l'état actuel de la question produite entre le Gouvernement Royal et la Sublime Porte par la colonisation des Tscherkesses. Il s'agissait, comme j'ai eu l'honneur de vous entretenir dans ma note de ce mois, d'amener la Porte à faire une mention formelle et explicite de la Macédoine dans l'énumération des provinces où le Gouvernement Ottoman s'engagerait à ne pas établir des colonies Circassiennes et ceci pour les raisons expliquées déjà dans une note du Ministère à M. Coundourioti, que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous transmettre en copie. Le Gouvernement Royal se contenterait d'une explication dans ce sens des termes "localités circonvoisines" employés par la Sublime Porte dans la dernière réponse qu'elle avait adressée sur la question à M. Coundourioti. Avant toutefois d'engager le Ministre du Roi à Constantinople à faire de démarches officielles à ce but auprès de la Sublime Porte j'ai cru devoir sonder les dispositions du Gouvernement Ottoman, afin d'éviter une réponse négative de se part, qui rendrait impossible une entente ultérieure à ce sujet entre les deux Gouvernements.

En chargeant M. Coundourioti de cette mission délicate, je n'ai pas manqué de lui expliquer que les raisons militant en faveur de notre demande, sont dans l'intérêt de la Sublime Porte tout aussi bien que dans le nôtre; que comprendre la Macédoine dans l'énumération des provinces Grecques de la Turquie qui, sur nos représentations, seraient exclues de la colonisation des Circassiens, serait pour le Gouvernement Ottoman, non seulement un acte de justice et de bon vouloir envers le Gouvernement Royal et les populations Helléniques de la Turquie, mais bien plus encore, un acte de sage prévoyance vis-à-vis des prétentions exorbitantes des Bulgares, qui ont des vues très-prononcées déjà sur toute la Macédoine et que, par conséquent, la Sublime Porte

reconnaissant à la Macédoine ses droits à l'Hellénisme, et en éloignant à ce titre les colons Tscherkesses, pourrait très-bien faire de cette concession un argument puissant contre une délimitation de la future Bulgarie, qui tendrait à absorber toute la Macédoine.

Malheureusement le Gouvernement Turc ne s'est pas montré disposé d'entrer dans ces vues, si justes pourtant et si bien motivées. Il m'a communiqué par l'intermédiaire de M. Photiades qu'il ne pouvait pas mentionner formellement la Macédoine dans l'énumération des provinces où il s'engagerait à ne pas établir des colonies Circassiennes, vu que le nom de cette province était un terme géographique trop vague pour servir de base à un engagement quelconque. Je n'ai pas besoin, Monsieur, de vous faire relever toute l'inexactitude de cette allégation. Bien loin d'être un terme vague et indéfini, la Macédoine est un pays très-distinctement délimité. Ses frontières, pour avoir changé de nom avec le temps, n'en sont pas moins fixes et hors de toute contestation. Elles sont au sud l'Archipel, le Mont Olympe et les Montagnes Carburiennes (Volitza), à l'ouest le Mont Sucolika, le Mont Grammros, et le Mont Ragosa, qui borne à l'ouest le Lac d'Orkrida, au nord le Mont Scardos (Tschar-Daag), et sa continuation, Egrisou Daag, à l'est la Rhodope (Mont Borspat), depuis le Mont Rila jusqu'aux embouchures de Neste (Mesto). Les limites que la Macédoine a eu depuis les temps anciens jusqu'à nos jours, sont aussi celles que tous les Macédoniens reconnaissent aujourd'hui à leur patrie. On ne saurait les ignorer, ou les mettre en doute, à moins de faire preuve d'un manque de bon vouloir.

En vous faisant part de ce qui précède je vous prie, Monsieur, d'en vouloir bien entretenir M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Grande Bretagne, et de continuer toujours, conformément à mes instructions précédentes, vos démarches auprès du Cabinet de Londres afin que son appui se fasse énergiquement sentir à Constantinople en faveur de notre juste demande.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Athens*, October 23 / November 4, 1876.

YOU are already aware, through my previous communications, of the present state of the question which has arisen between the Royal Government and the Sublime Porte owing to the Circassian colonization. It was important, as I had the honour to inform you in my note of this month, to bring the Porte to make a formal and explicit mention of Macedonia in the enumeration of the provinces in which the Ottoman Government would undertake not to establish Circassian colonies, and this for the reasons already explained in a note from this office to M. Coundourioti, a copy of which I had the honour to inclose to you. The Royal Government would be content with an explanation in this sense of the terms "localités circonvoisines" employed by the Sublime Porte in the last answer which it addressed on this subject to M. Coundourioti. Before, however, instructing the King's Minister at Constantinople to take any official steps in this sense, I thought it better to sound the dispositions of the Ottoman Government so as to avoid a negative reply on its part, which would render a future understanding on this subject between the two Governments impossible.

In entrusting M. Coundourioti with this delicate mission, I did not fail to explain to him that the reasons for our request are in the interest of the Sublime Porte just as much as in ours; that to include Macedonia in the enumeration of the Greek Provinces of Turkey, which, owing to our representations, would be excluded from Circassian colonization, would be on the part of the Ottoman Government not only an act of justice and goodwill towards the Royal Government and the Greek populations of Turkey, but still more an act of wise foresight, looking at the exorbitant pretensions of the Bulgarians, who have already very pronounced views on Macedonia; and that consequently the Sublime Porte, if she granted to Macedonia her rights to Hellenism, and in consequence removed the Circassian colonists, might easily draw, from this concession, a powerful argument against an enlargement of the boundaries of the future Bulgaria, which would have the effect of absorbing all Macedonia.

Unhappily the Turkish Government has not shown itself disposed to enter into these views, which are, neverthheless, so just and so well grounded. It has informed me, through M. Photiades, that it could not mention formally Macedonia in the enumeration of the provinces where it would undertake not to establish Circassian colonists, since the name of that province was a geographical term too vague to serve as a basis for any engagement. It is not necessary, Sir, for me to point out to you the inaccuracy of this assertion. Very far from being a vague and indefinite term, Macadonia is a country of which the boundaries are very distinctly marked. Its frontier, though names may have changed with the lapse of time, are not the less fixed and above argument. They are to the south,

the Archipelago, Mount Olympus, and the Carburian Mountains (Volitza); to the west, Mount Sucolika, Mount Grammros, and Mount Ragosa, which borders to the west Lake Orkrida, to the north Mount Scardos (Tschar-Daag), and its continuation Egrison Daaz; to the east, the Rhodopus (Mount Borspat), from Mount Rila to the mouths of the Nesta (Mesto). The limits which Macedonia has had from ancient times to our days, are also those which all Macedonians recognise to this day as those of their country. It is impossible to ignore them or to dispute them without showing a want of goodwill.

In communicating the above, I beg you, Sir, to acquaint the British Minister for Foreign Affairs with it, and to renew, in accordance with my preceding instructions, your representations to the Cabinet of London, with the object of obtaining their energetic support at Constantinople in favour of our just demands.

No. 1038.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 23, 1876.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 31st ultimo, reporting your conversation with Safvet Pasha on the subject of the Porte's anxiety that there should not be a Conference, I have to state that Her Majesty's Government approve the language held by your Excellency on that occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1039.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 23, 1876.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your having instructed Sir A. Kemball to recommend the good treatment of Russian prisoners by the Turkish Commanders, as reported in your despatch of the 2nd instant.

I am. &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1040.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 23, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 2nd instant, upon the subject of insinuations made by General Ignatiew, and at Livadia, that you have encouraged the Porte to resist the concessions demanded by Russia.

I am quite aware of the groundlessness of those insinuations, and I have much pleasure in expressing to your Excellency the entire satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government with your proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1041.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 23, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 7th instant, inclosing copies of two further reports by Mr. Baring, respecting the Commission at Philippopolis, as well

as your despatch of the same date, reporting the protests which you have made against the very unsatisfactory proceedings of the Commission.

I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your representations, which you should continue to make in the most forcible manner.

The mode in which the Commissioners are dealing with the affair is evidently illusory and evasive, and the excuses of Ismail Bey appear to be pretexts for delay. As Mr. Baring's representations and suggestions seem to be so little regarded, it is a question for grave consideration by Her Majesty's Government whether his recall may not be after all advisable.

In the case of the failure of justice the Porte must not expect that Great Britain and the Powers will allow the matter to rest.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1042.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 23, 1876, 6·50 P.M.

THE following appears in to-day's "Times," in a letter from the special correspondent, dated Pera, November 17, and telegraphed from Vienna:—

"It appears that, upon the suggestion and encouragement of Sir H. Elliot, the Grand Vizier is still bent on putting forward certain restrictions which it will probably not be difficult for the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers to overrule.

"Sir Henry Elliot observed that, although Her Majesty's Government was the original proposer of certain reforms and liberties to be bestowed upon the disturbed provinces, all necessity to insist upon them had been in a great measure removed by the scheme of constitutional government projected by Midhat Pasha, and now under discussion by the General Council.

"Sir H. Elliot urged besides that Turkey would come all the easier out of the ordeal of the Conference the readier she showed herself to stand upon her rights, by proving that she might have in any extremity force on her side."

The "Times'" correspondent goes on to say that, "acting upon the strength of these arguments, the Porte is making preparations for war."

No. 1043.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 24, 1876.

YOUR despatch of the 31st ultimo, on the subject of General Ignatiew's negotiations with the Porte for the conclusion of an armistice has been received, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1044.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)

My Lord, *Scutari, November* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Russian Acting-Consul here having informed me that the orthodox Slav community at Podgoritza had complained to him that Dervish Pasha, the Turkish Commander-in-chief, had taken possession of their church, after having forced them to repair the doors and windows which had been damaged by the Zeïbek Bashi-Bazouks, and had transformed it into a store for ammunitions, I made a representation on the subject to the General.

Dervish Pasha immediately replied that he had, as yet, only contemplated putting the Orthodox Church to the same use as one of the Mosques at Podgoritza, but that

a considerable portion of his troops having been ordered, within the last few days, to leave for Constantinople, the necessity no longer existed of having large stores on the Montenegrin frontier, and that, consequently, he had no difficulty in accepting my suggestion that the Slavs should not be deprived of their place of worship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 1045.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 24.)

My Lord, *Cettinjé, November* 10, 1876.

HAVING received this afternoon from Sir Andrew Buchanan a telegram informing me that I am at liberty to proceed to Ragusa, I went at once to the palace to take leave of the Prince, in order to be able to start to-morrow morning and catch the steamer at Cattaro.

I found His Highness so anxious about the illness of his son that I remained only a very few minutes. I asked him whether the version given me by Constant Pasha of the interview which he had had a few hours previously, and which I have reported in my immediately preceding despatch, was correct, and His Highness confirmed the Pasha's account of what had passed.

The Prince then said that, as regarded the terms of peace, there were three things which Montenegro demanded: the cession of Nichsich, of the plain on the right bank of the Moratcha, and of the seaport of Spitza; and that these three points were essential and could not be relinquished. If one were refused him he should not care to accept the two others; and as regards the seaport, he begged that I would represent to Her Majesty's Government the hope which he entertained that they would find it possible to make interest for him at Constantinople in favour of this particular cession.

I told His Highness that I had endeavoured to report all his views correctly to Her Majesty's Government, and that I would not fail to communicate to your Lordship what he had now said, but that I had no knowledge of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on this subject, and could give him no assurance that they in any way favoured his views. I then thanked His Highness for the courtesy with which he had invariably treated me, and bade him farewell.

Nothing was said by His Highness respecting his projected visit to Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 1046.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 24.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, November* 12, 1876.

COLONEL LENNOX has this day delivered to me your Lordship's despatch of the 2nd instant, instructing me to render him every assistance in my power in the discharge of his duties as Military Delegate on the part of Great Britain for the delimitation of the frontier.

The other Delegates already at Ragusa are: for Austria, Lieutenant-Colonel Albori; for France, Chef d'Escadron Lemoyne; for Italy, Signor Durando; and for Russia, Colonel Bogoluboff. The German Delegate, Lieutenant-Colonel von Seebech, cannot possibly be here before the 17th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 1047.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 24.)

My Lord, *Madrid, November* 20, 1876.

THE Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs was yesterday asked in the Congress whether there was any truth in the report that had appeared in the Ministerial news-

papers that Spain would be prepared to take part in the Turkish question, and, in case of war, to send a large body of troops to the East. Señor Calderon Collantes replied that he was not responsible for any statements of this nature that might appear in the newspapers. All he could say was that the affairs of Turkey had not occupied the attention of the Government, which was exclusively directed to repairing the enormous losses which a long period of disorder had caused to the country, and that Spain would not engage in any adventurous course, nor spend the blood of her sons or her treasures, except for the advantage of Spain herself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 1048.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 24, 1876, 3·40 P.M.*

THE language attributed to me by the "Times'" correspondent, mentioned in your Lordship's telegram, is incorrect. The statement that I advised the Grand Vizier to bring forward reserves or restrictions is the exact reverse of the truth, and I have never intimated that the scheme of constitutional government removes the necessity for the reforms and liberties proposed by Her Majesty's Government for the disturbed provinces; but I have said that when the new measures are published, with which we are not yet acquainted, it will be necessary to see whether they confer upon the provinces in question that which was demanded for them. For months past I have been urging the Porte to lose no time in removing the disabilities under which the Christians labour. The statement that I have urged that Turkey would come all the easier out of the ordeal of the Conference by holding herself ready to stand upon her rights, and by proving that she might at any time have force on her side, is absolutely false.

No. 1049.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 25.)

Milord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 24 Novembre, 1876.*

J'EPROUVE un véritable plaisir à communiquer à votre Excellence la copie ci-jointe d'une dépêche télégraphique que je viens de recevoir de son Excellence Safvet Pacha, et qui constate l'assistance et les secours de toute espèce accordés aux victimes des derniers événements de Bulgarie par les soins de la Commission Extraordinaire présidée par son Excellence Saadoulah Bey.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *Imperial Ottoman Embassy, London, November 24, 1876.*

I HAVE real pleasure in communicating to your Excellency the annexed copy of a telegram which I have just received from his Excellency Safvet Pasha, detailing the assistance and relief of every kind which is being afforded to the victims of recent events in Bulgaria through the intervention of the Extraordinary Commission, presided over by His Excellency Saadoulah Bey.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 1049.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 23 Novembre, 1876.*

SON Excellence Saadoulah Bey, Président de la Commission Extraordinaire envoyée en Bulgarie, vient d'informer la Sublime Porte que, dans les villages

incendiés dépendant de Philippopoli et de Bazardjik, il a été reconstruit jusqu'ici 950 maisons, et que 810 autres sont en voie de construction. La Commission a pris, en outre, les mesures nécessaires pour que des soins de toute nature soient procurés aux nécessiteux. Elle a fait distribuer des tapis, des couvertures et des approvisionnements de bouche à tous ceux qui en étaient depourvus, et elle a fourni aux paysans des instruments aratoires et des avances en argent.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 23, 1876.

HIS Excellency Saadoulah Bey, President of the Extraordinary Commission sent to Bulgaria, has just informed the Sublime Porte that in the burnt villages in the district of Philippopoli and Bazardjik, 950 houses have up to this time been rebuilt, and 810 others are being rebuilt. The Commission, moreover, has taken the necessary measures for supplying relief of every kind to the needy. Carpets, blankets, and victuals have been distributed to the destitute, and the peasants have been supplied with agricultural implements and advances in money.

No. 1050.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Stuart.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 25, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, copies of two despatches from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the establishment by the Porte of Circassian Colonies in Thessaly and Macedonia.*

These despatches were communicated to me on the 22nd instant by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in this country, and in receiving them, I confined myself to promising that they should receive the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1051.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract of a letter which I have received from Dr. Crookshank, relative to alleged Servian atrocities.

Dr. Crookshank is employed in the Turkish Military Hospital at Sienitza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 1051.

Dr. Crookshank to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Sienitza, November* 1, 1876.

THE few Servian wounded we have in the hospital are well cared for. They are placed in the same wards as the Turks, and are well treated by them.

Yesterday we received a juvenile warrior in the wards, a Bosnian lad about five years old; he had a cut on the shoulder and gunshot wound, with fracture of arm; he came from a village about two hours from here. His brother, about eighteen years old, says that about 200 Servians came into the village, cruelly massacred his mother and sisters, took off father and other prisoners, and destroyed the village. I wished very much to visit the place to-day, but our chief did not think it safe, and would not give me the necessary permission.

As soon as the lads arrived here, the Bashi-Bazouks were immediately sent off in pursuit of the Servians, but I cannot say with what result.

* Nos. 1036 and 1037.

According to the young man's statement (he is a Bosnian, not Turk), he says the soldiers made pockets of the women's breasts, into which they thrust the sufferer's hand, and pierced them there with wooden stakes, then cut off their heads, &c.; but I can only state that I investigated him through a Turk, who speaks French, and that the wounded child in the hospital gives the story a colouring of truth. The whole affair soon spread through the hospital and camp, where we have ten or twelve battalions, and the soldiers all swore vengeance on the Serbs, if they only get at them.

No. 1052.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 26.)

(Extract.) *Rome, November* 20, 1876.

M. MELEGARI informed me that the Greek Government had recently applied to that of Italy, with the view of inducing them to take the initiative of proposing at the Conference that the same measures should be granted to the Greek populations in Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia, as it was proposed to obtain for the Christians of the insurgent Provinces; to which, his Excellency told me, he had replied that, although Italy had the greatest sympathy for Greece and the Greek population of Turkey, she was, nevertheless, not one of the Guaranteeing Powers of Greece, and it would consequently appear like an act of presumption on the part of the Italian Government to be the proposer of such a measure.

He, therefore, advised the Greek Government to address themselves on this subject to the Guaranteeing Powers.

No. 1053.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, November* 27.)

M. le Comte, *Tsarskoé-Sélo, le 7 Novembre*, 1876.

LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS nous a donné lecture de la dépêche que Lord Derby lui a adressée en date du 30 Octobre.

Elle a pour objet de récapituler les efforts faits par le Cabinet de Londres en vue du rétablissement de la paix en Orient.

Nous relevons avec satisfaction qu'elle constate, en même temps, l'empressement que le Cabinet Impérial a mis à aller au devant d'un accord avec l'Angleterre.

Nous n'avons jamais cessé de travailler à une entente générale des Grandes Puissances comme la seule garantie d'une solution pacifique des difficultés Orientales et notre premier soin a été de nous en ouvrir au Cabinet de Londres. Dès le mois d'Août de l'année dernière, prévoyant les dangers de l'insurrection naissante et craignant de la voir se transformer en question d'Orient, je vous avais chargé, à Vevey, d'y rendre le Cabinet Anglais attentif à votre retour à Londres. Mais à cette époque le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne parut pas y attacher l'importance nécessaire.

L'Autriche-Hongrie plus directement intéressée, accueillit nos offres de concours pour prévenir ces périls, et s'entendit avec nous afin de soumettre à l'acceptation des Grandes Puissances des mesures d'apaisement.

Le projet contenu dans la dépêche du Comte Andrassy du 30 Décembre obtint l'appui du Cabinet de Londres, bien qu'il fut jugé inefficace, et ainsi fut posée la base du concert général que nous désirions.

Mais lorsque l'expérience eut démontré que le plan de réformes élaboré à Vienne n'était pas réalisable, faute des moyens pratiques d'exécution, et que les trois Cours Impériales proposèrent aux Grandes Puissances de développer ce programme en y ajoutant la sanction des garanties formulées dans le Mémorandum de Berlin, le Cabinet de Londres crut devoir rejeter ces propositions sans les examiner, sans les discuter, et sans y substituer aucune autre proposition.

Ainsi fut interrompu le travail d'apaisement et de conciliation auquel nous avions concouru et les conséquences en ont été terribles.

Depuis ce moment le Cabinet Impérial n'a rien négligé de ce qui pouvait dépendre de lui pour rétablir l'entente générale, et il a adhéré à la plupart des

propositions faites par l'Angleterre. Si quelques nuances se sont manifestées entre les deux Cabinets dans les différentes phases de la négociation, elles tenaient aux circonstances et non à leurs intentions. Nous aimons à en trouver la preuve même dans les démarches sur lesquelles ils n'ont pas pu tomber d'accord, c'est-à-dire les mesures d'exécution militaires et navales et l'armistice de six mois.

Quant à la première, en proposant de combiner les mesures d'exécution militaire avec l'entrée des escadres dans le Bosphore et même de limiter ces mesures à l'occupation maritime des détroits, si cela était jugé suffisant, le Cabinet Impérial a attesté son entier désintéressement et sa déférence particulière pour l'Angleterre, naturellement appelée à jouer un rôle prépondérant dans toute action maritime.

Quant à la seconde, le Cabinet Impérial ne s'est pas cru en droit d'imposer à la Serbie et au Monténégro une combinaison qui tendait à prolonger leur situation pénible et onéreuse sans leur offrir aucune garantie d'une paix équitable et solide. Si le Cabinet de Londres eut échangé ses idées avec nous avant d'exprimer son adhésion à cette proposition, nous lui aurions exposé franchement notre point de vue, peut-être eut-on évité ainsi une divergence ostensible qui a nécessairement dû diminuer le respect de la Porte pour le concert Européen.

Mais ces nuances d'appréciation s'effacent devant le désir mutuel d'une entente existant entre les deux Cabinets, ainsi que le constate le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique. Pour nous c'est là l'essentiel ; aussi avons nous vu avec une sincère satisfaction que le Cabinet de Londres s'est écarté de la stricte réserve qu'il semblait s'être imposé à la date de la dépêche de Lord Derby, en prenant depuis lors l'initiative d'une proposition tendant à constituer une Conférence et à en fixer les bases et le mode d'action. Nous nous y sommes ralliés avec le meilleur vouloir et le Cabinet de Londres peut compter sur notre concours pour arriver, par un accord, à une solution pacifique de la crise présente.

C'est parce que nous sommes animés de ce désir sincère d'une bonne entente que nous croyons devoir indiquer, franchement et sans aucune réticence, les points qui séparent nos appréciations de celles du Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique quant à la situation actuelle des choses.

Les deux Cabinets sont d'accord sur la nécessité de ramener la paix en Orient et de préserver celle de l'Europe en mettant un terme au déplorable état de la Turquie. Lord Derby reconnait, comme nous, que pour arriver à un apaisement solide et durable, il importe d'améliorer, d'une manière efficace, la condition des sujets Chrétiens du Sultan par des réformes sérieuses et pratiques. Il reconnait également, comme nous, l'insuffisance de réformes sur papier, et la nécessité indispensable de garanties d'exécution.

Nous ne différons d'avis que sur les moyens de réaliser ce but qui est commun à toute l'Europe.

Le Cabinet de Londres voudrait le concilier avec la lettre des stipulations conclues en d'autres temps, dans une autre situation, avec d'autres idées, sans tenir compte des vingt années écoulées, et la pénible expérience qu'elles ont apportée. Cette expérience a démontré, avec la dernière évidence, que l'action Européenne en Turquie s'est condamnée à l'impuissance par les stipulations de 1856, et que la Porte en profite pour perpétuer le régime ruineux pour elle et pour ses sujets Chrétiens, désastreux pour la paix générale, révoltant pour les sentiments d'humanité et pour la conscience de l'Europe Chrétienne, qu'elle poursuit depuis vingt ans avec la certitude d'une complète impunité.

A différentes reprises les Grandes Puissances ont dû se départir de ces principes absolus en intervenant directement dans les affaires de la Turquie, notamment en Syrie, dans les Principautés Unies, en Serbie, et en Candie, et leur action a obtenu des résultats partiels et momentanés. Mais les causes premières du mal subsistent en permanence et se généralisant, devaient forcément aboutir, tôt ou tard, aux conséquences que le Cabinet Impérial n'a pas cessé de signaler depuis vingt ans à la prévoyance de l'Europe.

Aujourd'hui le témoignage des faits est irrécusable. Jamais la diplomatie ne s'est plus agitée autour des questions Orientales que pendant l'année écoulée, jamais l'Europe n'en a été plus troublée, plus menacée dans son repos, ses intérêts, sa sécurité. Jamais les violences, par lesquelles les Turcs ont répondu à ses efforts de conciliation et d'apaisement, n'ont été plus odieuses et accomplies dans de plus vastes proportions ; jamais elles n'ont révélé avec plus d'évidence, la profondeur et le caractère incurable du mal qui ronge la Turquie et met en péril la sécurité de l'Europe.

Si les Grandes Puissances veulent faire une œuvre sérieuse et ne pas s'exposer au retour périodique et toujours aggravé de ces crises dangereuses, il est impossible

qu'elles persévèrent dans le système qui en laisse subsister les germes et leur permet de se développer avec l'inflexible logique des choses.

Il importe de sortir de ce cercle vicieux et de reconnaître que l'indépendance et l'intégrité de la Turquie doivent être subordonnées aux garanties réclamées par l'humanité, les sentiments de l'Europe Chrétienne et le repos général.

La Porte a été la première à enfreindre les engagements qu'elle a contractés par le Traité de 1856 vis-à-vis de ses sujets Chrétiens. L'Europe a le droit et le devoir de lui dicter les conditions auxquelles seulement elle peut, de son côté, consentir au maintien du *status quo* politique créé par ce Traité, et puisque la Porte est incapable de les remplir, elle a le droit et le devoir de se substituer à elle en tant qu'il est nécessaire pour en assurer l'exécution.

La Russie moins que toute autre Puissance peut consentir à renouveler les expériences de palliatifs, de demi-mesures, de programmes illusoires qui ont abouti aux tristes résultats qui sont sous les yeux de tous et réagissent sur sa tranquillité et sa prospérité intérieure. Mais si elle est plus directement, plus vivement intéressée à y mettre un terme par des améliorations sérieuses et efficacement garanties, elle n'en considère pas moins cette question comme d'un intérêt général réclamant le concert des volontés de toutes les Grandes Puissances afin d'être résolue pacifiquement.

Quant aux vues personnelles qu'elle apporte dans la poursuite de ce but elles sont étrangères à toute arrière pensée exclusive; les assurances les plus positives à cet égard ont été maintes fois données par le Cabinet Impérial. Votre Excellence a été formellement chargée, par ma lettre du 22 Octobre, de les renouveler au Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique dans les termes les plus catégoriques.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur les a confirmées à Livadia à Lord Augustus Loftus avec l'autorité de sa parole Souveraine.

Le Cabinet de Londres ne saurait conserver aucun doute à cet égard et nous espérons qu'il ne tardera pas à mettre la nation Anglaise en mesure de se former la même conviction en publiant le rapport de son Représentant.

Votre Excellence est autorisée à donner lecture et copie de la présente dépêche à Lord Derby.

Nous aimons à croire que le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique y trouvera aussi la preuve de notre sincère désir d'agir de concert avec la Grande Bretagne afin que les principes, sur lesquels les deux pays sont tombés d'accord comme base de la pacification de l'Orient, ne restent point, comme par le passé, une lettre morte, un programme stérile, sans sincérité ni efficacité, laissant constamment suspendue sur les relations des deux pays et sur la paix de l'Europe, la menace des périls qui les troublent aujourd'hui.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

(Translation.)

M. le Comte, *Tsarskoe-Sélo, November* 7, 1876.

LORD A. LOFTUS has read to us and given us a copy of the despatch addressed to him by Lord Derby, under date of the 30th October.

Its object is to recapitulate the efforts made by the Cabinet of London with a view to the re-establishment of peace in the East.

We remark with satisfaction that it at the same time recognizes the eagerness shown by the Imperial Cabinet to act in harmony with England.

We have never ceased to work for a general understanding of the Great Powers as the only guarantee for a pacific solution of the Eastern difficulties, and our first care has been to open ourselves to the London Cabinet.

In the month of August last year, foreseeing the dangers of the coming insurrection, and fearing to see it transformed into the Eastern question, I instructed you at Vevey to draw the attention of the English Government to it on your return to London. But at this period the Government of Her Britannic Majesty did not appear to attach to it the necessary importance.

Austria, more directly interested, listened to our offers of joint action for the prevention of these dangers, and came to an understanding with us to submit to the acceptance of the Great Powers measures of pacification.

The proposals contained in Count Andrassy's despatch of the 30th December, obtained the support of the Cabinet of London, although they were considered not sufficiently efficacious, and thus was established the basis of the general concert which we desired.

But when experience had shown that the plan of reforms drawn up at Vienna was not practicable for want of the means of carrying it out, and when the three Imperial Courts

proposed to the Great Powers to develop this programme by adding thereto the sanction of the guarantees formulated in the Berlin Memorandum, the London Cabinet considered it its duty to reject those proposals without examining them, without discussing them, and without substituting for them any other proposition.

Thus was interrupted the work of appeasement and conciliation to which we had lent our efforts, and the consequences thereof have been terrible.

Since that time the Imperial Cabinet has neglected nothing which lay in its power to re-establish the general understanding, and it has adhered to the greater part of the propositions made by England. If certain differences have manifested themselves between the two Cabinets in the different stages of the negotiation, they are due to circumstances, and not to their intentions.

We delight to find the proof of it even in the steps upon which they have not been able to agree, namely, the military and naval measures of occupation and the six months' armistice.

As regards the first, in proposing to combine measures of military occupation with the entry of the fleets into the Bosphorus, and even to limit these measures to the maritime occupation of the Straits, if that was considered sufficient, the Imperial Cabinet has shown its entire disinterestedness and its special deference to England, naturally called upon to play a preponderant part in all maritime action.

With reference to the second, the Imperial Cabinet did not consider that it had any right to impose on Servia and Montenegro a condition which tended to prolong their painful and onerous situation, without offering them any guarantee of an equitable and substantial peace.

If the London Cabinet had exchanged ideas with us before expressing its adhesion to this proposition, we would have frankly stated our views, and perhaps thus we might have avoided an ostensible difference of opinion, which has necessarily had the effect of diminishing the respect of the Porte for the European concert.

But these slight differences disappear before the mutual desire for an understanding which exists between the two Cabinets, as confirmed by Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State.

For us that is the essential thing; thus we have seen with a sincere satisfaction that the London Cabinet has deviated from the strict reserve which it appeared to have imposed upon itself at the date of Lord Derby's despatch, by assuming since then the initiative in bringing forward a proposition for the convocation of a Conference and in fixing its bases and mode of procedure. We have agreed to this most willingly, and the London Cabinet may depend on our co-operation in the endeavour to arrive by agreement at a pacific solution of the present crisis.

It is because we are animated by this sincere desire for a good understanding that we think it right to indicate frankly, and without any reserve, the points on which our views differ from those of Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State with regard to the actual position of affairs.

The two Cabinets are agreed upon the necessity of restoring peace in the East, and preserving that of Europe by putting an end to the deplorable state of Turkey.

Lord Derby recognizes, as we do, that in order to arrive at a real and lasting pacification it is necessary to improve in an efficacious manner the condition of the Christian subjects of the Sultan by real and practical reforms. He recognizes equally with us the insufficiency of reforms on paper, and the indispensable necessity of guarantees for their execution.

We differ only in opinion as to the means of realizing this object, which is one common to all Europe.

The London Cabinet would reconcile it with the letter of stipulations concluded in former times, in another situation and with other views, without taking into account the twenty years which have elapsed, and the painful experience which they have brought.

This experience has shown on the clearest evidence that European action in Turkey has been reduced to impotency by the stipulations of 1856, and that the Porte takes advantage of this state of things to perpetuate the system so ruinous for her and for her Christian subjects, so disastrous to the general peace, so revolting to the sentiments of humanity and to the conscience of Christrian Europe, which she has pursued for twenty years with the certainty of complete impunity.

At different conjunctures the Great Powers have had to depart from these absolute principles by intervening directly in the affairs of Turkey, notably in Syria, in the united Principalities, in Servia and in Candia, and their action has obtained partial and momentary results.

But the primary causes of the evil exist permanently, and, becoming general, were

bound to end sooner or later in the consequences which the Imperial Cabinet has not ceased for twenty years to point out to the foresight of Europe.

To-day the evidence of facts is incontrovertible. Never has diplomacy been more agitated about Eastern questions than during the past year. Never has Europe been more troubled, never have its peace, its interests, its security been more seriously menaced. Never have the violent deeds by which the Turks have responded to its efforts at conciliation and pacification been more odious and perpetrated in vaster proportions. Never have they more strikingly laid bare the extent and the incurable character of the evil which consumes Turkey, and endangers the security of Europe.

If the Great Powers wish to accomplish a real work, and not expose themselves to the periodical and always aggravated return of this dangerous crisis, it is impossible that they should persevere in a system which permits the germs of it to exist and develop with the inflexible logic of facts.

It is necessary to escape from this vicious circle and to recognize that the independence and integrity of Turkey must be subordinated to the guarantees demanded by humanity, the sentiments of Christian Europe, and the general peace.

The Porte has been the first to infringe the engagement which she contracted by the Treaty of 1856 with regard to her Christian subjects. It is the right and duty of Europe to dictate to her the conditions on which alone it can on its part consent to the maintenance of the political *status quo* created by that Treaty; and since the Porte is incapable of fulfilling them, it is the right and duty of Europe to substitute itself for her to the extent necessary to ensure their execution.

Russia can less than any other Power consent to renew the experiences of palliatives, of half measures, of illusory programmes, which have led to the results which are patent to all, and which react on her tranquillity and internal prosperity. But if she is more directly, more sensibly interested in putting an end to it by real and adequately guaranteed improvements, she none the less considers this question one of general interest, calling for the concert of the wishes of all the Powers with a view to its pacific solution.

With reference to the personal views which she brings into the pursuit of this object, they are free from all exclusive *arrière pensée*. The most positive assurances in this respect have repeatedly been given by the Imperial Cabinet; your Excellency has been formally charged by my letter of the 22nd October to renew them to Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State in the most categorical terms.

His Majesty the Emperor has confirmed them at Livadia to Lord A. Loftus, with the authority of his sovereign word.

The Cabinet of London cannot entertain any doubt in this respect, and we hope that it will not delay to place the English nation in a position to form the same conviction by publishing the report of its Representative.

Your Excellency is authorized to read and give a copy of the present despatch to Lord Derby.

We would fain believe that her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State will also find in it the proof of our sincere desire to act in concert with the Government of Great Britain, so that the principles upon which the two countries have agreed as the basis of the pacification of the East may not remain, as in the past, a dead letter, a barren programme, without sincerity or efficacy, leaving constantly suspended over the relations of the two countries and over the peace of Europe the menace of the dangers which disturb them to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GORTCHAKOW.

No. 1054.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 13, 1876.

I INFORMED your Lordship by telegraph that the Russian Embassy takes umbrage at the movement of the Turkish ships of war to the Upper Bosphorus.

Your Lordship is aware that, upon my advice, the Porte abstained from sending them into the Black Sea, as had been proposed; but the Lower Bosphorus opposite the Palace where they lie in summer being unsuited for a winter anchorage, they were sent to Beikos and Buyukdere, some twelve miles above Constantinople, within the police district of the town.

It would obviously have been unwise under present circumstances to send them into the Golden Horn above the two bridges, where they are usually laid up during the winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 1055.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 13, 1876.

THE Porte continues to regard the proposal for a Conference with extreme aversion, and the Grand Vizier has sent to me to express his earnest desire that Her Majesty's Government would make known to him the measures which it is intended to propose to the Porte for the administration of the insurgent provinces.

He says that if he knew what the Powers proposed to ask, it might very likely be possible for the Porte to grant all and perhaps more than was demanded, and thus render unnecessary the Conference which it looked forward to with so much dread.

I replied that it had been decided that there must be a Conference, with the general bases of which he was already acquainted.

These should satisfy him that the Porte might agree to the proposal without danger, and I hoped no further time would be lost in signifying its acceptance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 1056.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the copy of your Lordship's despatch to Lord Augustus Loftus of the 26th ultimo, upon some statements which General Ignatiew alleges me to have made to him.

I beg leave to thank your Lordship for at once declaring to Count Schouvaloff the impossibility of my having represented Her Majesty's Government as having abandoned the views lately put forward by them, and I can, at the same time, confidently assert that I have never uttered a word open to such an interpretation.

When General Ignatiew spoke to me of the arrangements to be made, he alluded to the autonomy proposed by Her Majesty's Government for the insurgent provinces, generally omitting the word "administrative," with which your Lordship had qualified the expression; and upon those occasions I certainly have reminded him of the explanation which I understood to convey its true meaning.

With regard to the preference I am represented to have professed for the system of reform put forward by Midhat Pasha over that of local autonomy, which I looked upon as "inexecutable," your Lordship not having given me any intimation of the manner in which Her Majesty's Government regarded this question, I could, as your Lordship has observed, only express a personal opinion; but upon the merits of the measures spoken of as Midhat Pasha's projects, I have pronounced no judgment, although I have stated that, if their application can be secured, they will go far to give the provincial populations the amount of control over their local affairs asked for by Her Majesty's Government.

It has been my lot on many occasions to differ in opinion from General Ignatiew, but it will be seen by a reference to my correspondence during the last year, that we were at least agreed in considering that the plan—at that time only vaguely talked of—of conferring upon provinces situated like Bosnia and the Herzegovina an administration such as is secured by a Special Règlement to the Lebanon and to Crete, was open to the most serious objection, and would be found upon application little calculated to promote their future tranquillity.

His opinion may since have changed, but the extraordinary indignation recently excited among the Greek populations by the belief that the Slavs alone are to obtain exceptional privileges, could only tend to confirm me in the conviction that it is by

general measures alone for the improved administration of all the provinces of the Empire that early insurrectionary movements in districts hitherto quiet can hope to be averted.

It is impossible for an Ambassador to avoid forming and expressing his opinions upon questions frequently discussed with his colleagues, but your Lordship may rest assured that, until I am made acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government, I am invariably careful to avoid saying anything that could commit them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 1057.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 16, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, copies of further reports, which I have received from Sir Arnold Kemball on the military operations of the Turkish army since October 29th.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1057.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Head-Quarter Camp, before Alexinatz,
Sir, *November 5, 1876.*

THE subjoined seven telegrams have made your Excellency acquainted with the course of events in this camp since the battle of Sunday, the 29th ultimo.

As regards the charge brought by the Servians against the Turks of continuing to bombard Deligrad after the white flag had been hoisted there, the fact that no such flag was observed by the latter, which I can with confidence attest, must suffice to clear them from the wilful offence implied. *Primâ facie* it may be believed the course of negotiations at Constantinople for an armistice being well known, that the Turks would not have delayed a moment to assume possession of a post which formed the key of the enemy's defences in the valley of the Morava, and which, owing to such delay, they might justly apprehend, must remain, as it has done, in the hands of the Servians. The facts are these:—

On the Sunday afternoon after the enemy's position had been captured, the only shots fired in the direction of Deligrad were fired from the guns which the Servians had abandoned served by the Turkish infantry, but so abortive was their practice, the shells falling at almost point blank range, that it was discontinued after the third discharge.

It was not till Monday that the Turkish artillery could be brought to the front, those guns advanced by Nedjeb Pasha on the previous day being still out of range of the forts of Deligrad, and being, moreover, fully occupied in engaging an enemy's battery on the right bank of the Morava, over against the inferior crest which was assailed by his division. On Monday, I am credibly informed, for I had myself gone to our left front to assist at the intended occupation of Krushewatz, the Turkish artillery, being now in position, did occasionally open fire on the forts of Deligrad in order to lead the enemy to unmask his strength, but the few guns employed, the extreme range, and the character of the ground covered by those forts, forming, as it does, an intrenched camp, exclude the idea of a bombardment, though such bombardment, had it been attempted, would have been quite justifiable.

On Tuesday, during the occupation of Alexinatz, the fire of the Turkish artillery in the direction of Deligrad was almost suspended, and on Wednesday a heavy snow storm on the previous night, followed by rain and sleet during the day, so effectually barred all offensive operations, as even to prevent a cavalry reconnaissance being pushed forward to ascertain if the forts there, as suspected, had also been evacuated.

Again the story of the white flag would be hardly consistent with the fact, that

after the armistice had been announced, and while a flag of truce was on its way to the Turkish camp, as reported in my telegram of Thursday, a Servian force, estimated at three or four battalions, attempted to re-occupy a village in the valley of the Moravitza, which was held by the Broussali Redif battalion. This attempt was checked by the flank movement of Turkish troops from the adjoining crest, but not until Major Mahmoud Bey had been killed, and fifteen men of the Broussali battalion more or less severely wounded. When called upon by Ahmed Ayoub Pasha for explanation the Servian parlementaire suggested that the incident must be owing to ignorance on the part of some subordinate officer of the conclusion of the armistice. It was immediately made the subject of complaint to Constantinople by Ahmed Ayoub Pasha.

Assuming, as I am disposed to assume, that Deligrad has been erroneously named in your Excellency's telegram for Alexinatz, my remarks would, nevertheless, apply in the main with increased force to the latter place. On Sunday, during the battle opposite Deligrad, the Servian batteries covering Alexinatz were engaged all day with the Turkish batteries opposed to them, and I cannot doubt that from the latter many shells were thrown into the town (which, by the way, was known to have been already vacated by most of the inhabitants), but on Monday, the Servian batteries ceasing to fire, the fire of the Turkish batteries was restricted to occasional shots, and at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning the Circassians brought intelligence that the place had been evacuated. It is only fair to assume that between Sunday night and Tuesday morning the interval of time did not more than suffice for the removal* of the guns, ammunition, provisions, and stores with which the position must have been stocked, and seeing the vital importance of its possession to the Turks, it might be inferred that they would only too readily have hailed its surrender; whereas, as announced by me, up to the hour of evacuation, active preparations were being made for the attack of the place which it was supposed would involve a serious struggle. The necessity of providing winter quarters for their troops had also formed an additional motive to the Turks to abstain from bombardment, and, as a matter of fact, my aide-de-camp and I, being among the first to enter the town, remarked upon the little injury which had been done to the buildings by the Turkish fire. One shell only had struck the church, and though our inspection was necessarily superficial, we observed no other instance of a roof being injured. The long range exceeding three miles may further account for this result. Since the armistice I affirm that not a shot has been fired by the Turks, save in self-defence, to repel the Servian attack of Thursday.

The Turkish loss on Sunday last is officially stated at 71 killed and 515 wounded. I could form no estimate of the Servian losses along so extended a line; they were certainly more considerable, and included a large proportion of foreigners. That no prisoners should have been taken on that day is exceptional only in contrast with the very small numbers captured on other occasions within my experience, and is perhaps to be accounted for by the fact that on those occasions the individuals spared were generally discovered in thick cover after the enemy's retreat, while on Sunday the fight took place in immediate proximity to the lines at Deligrad. During any engagement I fear little quarter has been given or received on either side.

Since Tuesday night a succession of snow storms has rendered the country and roads almost impracticable and has subjected the Commissariat Department to a strain, which, separated as are the head-quarters of the several divisions far apart, it will hardly sustain throughout the winter. Some battalions have found shelter in Alexinatz and the several villages occupied on Tuesday, but the major portion of this force is still bivouacked in the snow. Forage is scarcely obtainable, but wood, so essential to the soldier both for building huts and for fires, is still abundant.

I may mention that on Tuesday, in anticipation of the further advance of this force, six battalions of infantry and a battery of artillery were moved up from Nisch to garrison Alexinatz, but these troops will now return to their former quarters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

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* The removal must have been effected by the Banja road, leading from Alexinatz to Deligrad up the valley of the Moravitza, which is screened from view by the ridge in the shape of a huge glacis which separates that valley from the valley of the Morava.

Telegram (A.)

October 31, 1876.

Tuesday 9 A.M.—Occupation Krushevatz has been postponed by the direction of Abdul Kerim Pasha until capture Alexinatz which has been postponed to-morrow. Servian feeling against Russians manifest all occasions.

Telegram (B.)

October 31, 1876.

Tuesday 6 P.M.—Telegram this morning hardly despatched, and Nedjib Pasha gone right front to make arrangements for simultaneous demonstration to-morrow in the direction of Deligrad, when Circassians reported both Alexinatz and Krushevatz evacuated.

Of the 16 men and women found Alexinatz, 4 men killed, remainder well-treated. No guns. Deligrad supposed to be evacuated also, but to-morrow will show.

Hope this terminates this miserable war.

Telegram (C.)

November 1, 1876.

Wednesday 6 P.M.—Enemy's retreat most opportune. Snow-storm last night. Movements impracticable till weather clears. Evacuation Deligrad not yet ascertained —doubtful.

Precautions completely successful to prevent incendiarism Alexinatz, and, hope, numerous villages in the direction of Deligrad, henceforward absolutely necessary Turks.

Telegram (D.)

November 2, 1876.

Thursday 6 P.M.—Conclusion armistice two months with particulars announced by Porte. Cessation hostilities immediately ordered. Nevertheless enemy encroaching lost ground, attacked outposts, killed and wounded Major about 20 men, just as officer came from Tchernaieff ask if Turks have received news of armistice. In explanation said probably ignorance subordinates. Snow has fallen continuously since ten last night.

Telegram (E.)

November 3, 1876.

Friday 7 P.M.—Communication by telegraph has been received from Rustchuk, Tchernaieff was missing since battle Sunday. Officer yesterday said came from officer commanding Deligrad, he did not say from Tchernaieff. Nothing to report. Snow has fallen heavily during day.

Telegram (F.)

November 4, 1876.

Saturday 7 P.M.—Your four telegrams just received together by express from Nisch; communication by telegraph has been interrupted. No one taken prisoner late battle. No excesses whatever have been committed I visited captured heights as soon as ceased firing and did not observe white flag Deligrad. No bombardment Deligrad; but Monday, Tuesday, until Alexinatz occupied, Turks fired occasionally at forts. Obviously if flag hoisted Turks would have gladly accepted surrender. When Servians found Turks did not observe flag, why did they not send flag of truce as on Thursday, or was not I communicated with? Very bad weather.

Telegram (G.)

November 5, 1876.

Sunday 7 P.M.—Horvatovitch yesterday by the direction of Servian Commander-in-chief proposed Azeez Pasha definition of their respective lines. Azeez Pasha

pleaded incompetency of Divisional Commander, but Ahmed Ayoub Pasha to-day has sanctioned arrangement provisionally on that side, if practicable, pending arrival Commissioners from Constantinople. Still very bad weather.

No. 1058.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 27.*)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 16, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a further report from Mr. Baring, respecting the proceedings of the Commission at Philippopoli.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 1058.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopolis, November* 12, 1876.

SINCE I last had the honour of reporting to your Excellency, Ahmet Agha and Alish Pelivan have been before the Commission twice to be confronted with different witnesses, the severe illness of the former having somewhat retarded the inquiry.

Beklach Mitto and Achmet Tchaoush have also been up for confrontation.

On the 9th instant, the question of the existence or non-existence of crime at Batak was discussed by the Commission, but no decision was arrived at, the suggestion of the President that the discussion should be adjourned till after the preparation of the "fesleke" or summary of the case being adopted.

When this document is once prepared, the whole of the Batak case might be brought to a conclusion in a very short time, as the Commission is not likely to obtain more evidence than it is already in possession of.

The general features of the Dervent case were also discussed on the 9th, and the existence of crime was strongly insisted on by Wassa Effendi, who very rightly observed that the only question now was to discover the guilty.

Two other persons besides Tossoun Bey are in prison for this affair, viz., Halim Pehlivan and Deli Hussein, and it has almost been decided to imprison five others.

A few days ago, three Tchorbadjis from Carlovo waited on the Commission to beg for the release of Tossoun Bey. It is somewhat strange that one of them is the man who, when I visited Carlovo alone, complained more bitterly than anyone of Tossoun Bey's tyranny. These men also asked that Hassan Effendi, who is now Mudir of the village, should be retained as Kaïmakam.

Considering what I have heard of the feelings of the Christians of Carlovo, I do not think that the step now taken by these Tchorbadjis can be looked upon as prompted by a sincere desire to see him restored to them.

In one of his recent examinations, Tossoun Bey produced a document with a number of seals annexed to it, which, he declared, relieved him of all responsibility in the Dervent affair.

The purport of this paper is that the inhabitants of certain villages, having heard that Dervent was in a state of revolt, called upon Tossoun Bey to lead them against it, and declared that they were ready to accept all the responsibility. Now, Tossoun Bey declares that when he went to Dervent he had no intention of attacking it, the force of circumstances alone obliging him to do so. If the document is genuine, this portion of his defence is disposed of, as the villagers distinctly ask him to lead them to the attack, so that when he set out he must have perfectly well known what he was going to undertake.

The Commission has also examined Tumbrushli Achmet Agha, who aided in the destruction of Peroustitza, and whose brothers, Imail and Adil Agha, destroyed the perfectly innocent villages of Boicovo and Dedovo. The two latter have, unfortunately, not been arrested. Achmed Agha was Kir Meemouri of Tumbrush.

Since the 26th ultimo, when M. Bilizikji fell ill, I have been deprived of the services of a dragoman, as unfortunately just as that gentleman was recovering his strength, he was obliged suddenly to leave for Constantinople on account of the dangerous illness of his wife. The consequence is that it is by no means easy for me to follow the proceedings of the Commission.

M. Bilizikji was in the habit of taking down the important depositions word for word, and then translating them, so that I had always documents on hand from which I could refresh my memory; but now, when any discussion arises, while the members of the Commission have the depositions to refer to, I am obliged to trust entirely to my recollection for things that happened more than ten days ago, during which time, of course, a mass of evidence has been taken.

I should say that, on the whole, of late, the country has become somewhat more secure than it was a month ago; at least, I do not hear of the almost daily acts of violence which were reported to me when I first came here. Perhaps this may be in some degree attributable to the newly organized cavalry patrols. As your Excellency is aware, I have not visited villages lately myself, and I only found my assertion on what I hear here, and on the fact that of late no complaints have been made to me.

The Mutessarif has undertaken to get the property stolen in this district restored to its owners, and the Commission has consequently handed that extremely difficult task over to him.

Some days before this proposal was made, I suggested to Saadoulah Bey that the best plan to adopt would be to assemble the heads of the heads of the Turkish villages which were known to have furnished the bands of Bashi-Bozouks, and to make them responsible for the restoration of the property.

This measure, if vigorously applied, would, I feel sure, have the effect of making those who had taken no part in the plundering oblige those that had to disgorge their ill-gotten gains. If, after a suitable delay, none or only a small portion of the property had been restored, the Turkish villages would have to make up the value of what had been lost.

As it is perfectly well known whence the destroyers of most of the Bulgarian villages came, this plan would not be attended by such very great difficulty.

I do not know what plans the Mutessarif intends following, but one is bound to observe that, as his authority does not extend beyond the limits of his own sandjak, and as there is much stolen property in the vilayets of Salonica and Sofia, it will be out of his power to get back all that has been lost.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 1059.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 17, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from the "Levant Herald" giving an account of some Turkish soldiers now in one of the Constantinople hospitals who have been mutilated by the Montenegrins.

There are similar cases in the other hospitals of the capital, and the account given in the paper of the description by these unfortunate men of the treatment undergone by themselves, and their companions, has been repeated by them to several Englishmen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 1059.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of November 17, 1876.

MONTENEGRIN HUMANITY.—In the late affair of Medun, when the Turkish force under the command of Mahmoud Pasha was repulsed, eleven prisoners fell into the hands of the Montenegrins. Seven of these men have arrived in Constantinople, and are now lodged in the barracks at Scutari, except one who is receiving hospitality at the hands of the Sultan in the palace of Dolmabaghtché. Out of the seven, five have been mutilated; the nose and upper lip having been cut off. They further bear numerous scars of knife-wounds, of which one man has twenty-four. They give a horrible account of the treatment they received. In the room where they were detained, all suffering severely from battle-wounds, the Montenegrins held a drunken

orgie. They danced round the room with drawn knives, slashing and stabbing at the unfortunate prisoners, with each cut crying, "Take that, Turk!" The seven who have survived state that, of the other four, two were burned alive before their eyes, and of the remaining two, one had his hands and arms skinned by the Montenegrins, who then poured petroleum over the raw flesh and set it on fire, and the other was compelled to place his hands on a table while the Montenegrins chopped them away inch by inch with their knives, and when the knives proved too light they took hatchets until the arms were chopped away to the elbows. Under this treatment the two men died in great agony. On the arrival here of the survivors, the Sultan heard the pitiful tale, and asked to see one of the men, and the least suffering of the number, a fine stripling of 18, from the neighbourhood of Smyrna, was accordingly taken before His Majesty. The Sultan was deeply moved at the account given, as we understand with great simplicity, by this youth, who had escaped mutilation, and conversed with the lad at great length. He then ordered that a room should be given him in the palace, and that the palace doctors should tend him. His wounds are only battle-wounds; one in the body; one which has shattered the elbow-joint; and one bullet-wound in the cheek, the ball having entered by the upper jaw and passed out through the mouth, slightly injuring the tongue, but breaking none of the teeth. The Sultan has desired Temple Bey, the physician of his household, to visit the wounded men at Scutari and to report to His Majesty their progress. We understand that photographs of the unhappy objects of the mutilating process will be taken by order of the Sultan.

No. 1060.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 16, 1876.

I HAVE spoken to the Minister of War of the discredit incurred by the Porte by allowing so much time to pass without an investigation of the charges against Chefket Pasha, and I told him that, as the General professed to have in his pocket orders which would show that he had done no more than carry out his instructions, his continued impunity would lead to a belief in the truth of his assertion.

The Minister replied that until Mr. Baring's report had been read before the Council of Ministers neither he nor most of his colleagues knew how seriously compromised Chefket Pasha was.

The Pasha had called upon him a day or two ago, and had asked whether it was true that he was to be severely punished.

He had answered that if the charges were proved by the Court which would have to examine them the penalty pronounced, however severe, would certainly be carried out.

The Minister gave me positive assurances that he would do nothing to shield Chefket Pasha or any other officer who had exceeded his duty.

When the Philippopolis Commission has reported upon the occurrences at Bojadjideui the time will come for proceeding against any person implicated in them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 1061.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 17, 1876.

I WENT to the Porte two days ago, where I met the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and Safvet Pasha, upon whom I strongly urged the necessity of at once accepting the proposed Conference.

I need not repeat the arguments I used, but I left them satisfied that they would give way, and signify their acceptance.

The question was submitted the next day to the Council of Ministers, which was in favour of the acceptation, but said that it must be submitted to the Sultan.

His Majesty consequently presided over a Council, at which the opinion was

again favourable, but coupled with a decision that it must be referred to a Grand Council, which, to-day being Friday, cannot be held till to-morrow.

I am, however, assured that there is no doubt of the decision being the same as that arrived at by the Ministerial Council.

I this morning sent to Safvet Pasha the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, and he has promised that by to-morrow afternoon the final decision shall be taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 1062.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November 27.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 15 Novembre*, 1876.

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-jointe, pour votre information, la traduction d'un télégramme que la Sublime Porte vient de recevoir du Gouverneur-Général de Bosnie.

Ainsi que vous le relèverez de la lecture de cette pièce, l'œuvre de pacification avance rapidement; et, si elle n'est pas déjà achevée, cela a pour cause une situation qu'il n'est pas en notre pouvoir de faire cesser.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, November 15*, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, annexed, for your information, the translation of a telegram which the Sublime Porte has just received from the Governor-General of Bosnia.

As you will gather from the perusal of this document, the work of pacification advances rapidly; and, if it is not already accomplished, this arises from a situation to which it is not in our power to put an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 1062.

The Governor-General of the Province of Bosnia to the Sublime Porte.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Le 18 Octobre (vieux style)*, 1876.

RECU télégramme de votre Altesse du 14 Octobre.

LES insurgés qui avaient attaqué dernièrement en grand nombre le district de Kelonch ont été dispersés; les grands Balkans de Banyaluka et de Travnik ont été également purgés de leur présence; ceux qui ont échappé à la poursuite de nos troupes se sont enfuis dans la direction de la Dalmatie et de la Croatie.

Cependant, les troupes auxiliaires ne se sont pas plus tôt dispersées dans leurs quartiers respectifs que les malfaiteurs font leur apparition sur notre territoire par groupes de 40 à 50 et même dans certaines localités de 100 à 200; ils rôdent à Grahova, à Amsa, à Ghlamontk (Travnik), à Kozara et à Pétroftcha (Bekhé); ils attaquent périodiquement, et chaque fois que l'occasion s'en présente, les villages où il est impossible de cantonner des troupes pour longtemps; et, en attendant l'arrivée de forces militaires, ils ne manquent pas de commettre des déprédations.

Des colonnes mobiles ont été organisés. Nous nous occupons, en ce moment, de la destruction des bandes.

La prolongation de cet état de choses a pour cause le libre passage assuré sur la frontière Autrichienne.

On ne saurait indiquer exactement le nombre, tantôt diminuant, tantôt augmentant, des insurgés; seulement, le Colonel Serbe Despotovitch a sous son commandement 5,000 hommes environ, composés de huit à dix détachements échelonnés sur différents points. A ces forces viennent se joindre de tous côtés des aventuriers étrangers, de

telle sorte que les insurgés attaquent parfois au nombre de 3 à 4,000 des bourgs considérables.

Parmi ces gens, il se trouve bien peu d'indigènes ; la plupart sont des étrangers. Ayant pour repaires les Grands Balkans et les montagnes sus-mentionnées, ils rôdent le plus souvent aux environs des confins de la Dalmatie et de la Croatie, afin de faciliter leur fuite en cas de poursuite de notre part.

L'ordre est pour le moment parfait dans les arrondissements de Zvornik et de Sérajevo. Les Monténégrins et les Serbes formés en bandes de 50, de 100, et même parfois de 3 à 500 hommes, franchissent la frontière, les premiers du côté de Tachlidja, d'Akod, de Baana (Novi-Bazaar), et les derniers du côté des localités sises entre Novi-Varech et Vichigrad. Parmi les agresseurs il y en a qui sont battus et mis en fuite par les colonnes mobiles ; il y en a aussi qui, sans se battre, s'enfuient devant les troupes qui les poursuivent, en emportant les biens et les bestiaux tombés entre leurs mains.

Pour le moment, il n'y a eu aucune réunion considérable de forces insurgées, ni engagement sérieux. Le peuple n'en continue pas moins à se plaindre des dommages qu'il subit.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *October* 18 (*old style*), 1876.

YOUR Highness's telegram of October 14th, received.

' The insurgents who had lately attacked in great numbers the district of Kelonch have been dispersed ; the great Balkans of Banyaluka and Travnik have been likewise freed from their presence ; those who have escaped the pursuit of our troops have fled in the direction of Dalmatia and Croatia.

Nevertheless, the auxiliary troops were no sooner dispersed to their respective quarters than the malefactors make their appearance on our territory in groups of from forty to fifty, and even in some places of from one hundred to two hundred ; they prowl about Grahova, Amsa, Ghlamontk (Travnik), Kozara and Petroftcha (Bekhé) ; they attack periodically, and every time the occasion presents itself, the villages where it is impossible to quarter troops for any length of time ; and, in the absence of our military forces, they do not fail to commit depredations.

Flying columns have been organized. We are occupied at this moment in the destruction of the bands.

The prolongation of this state of things is caused by the free passage secured to them across the Austrian frontier.

It is not possible to give the ever-varying number of the insurgents, for it sometimes diminishes, sometimes increases ; however, the Servian Colonel Despotovitch has under his command about 5,000 men, composed of eight or ten detachments écheloned on different points. Foreign adventurers come from all sides to join these forces, so much so that the insurgents sometimes attack villages of some size in numbers of from 3,000 to 4,000.

Among these people are very few natives ; the greater part are foreigners. Having for refuges the Great Balkans and the above-mentioned mountains, they prowl chiefly in the neighbourhood of the border lands of Dalmatia and Croatia, in order to facilitate their flight in case of pursuit on our part.

For the moment order reigns everywhere in the districts of Zvornik and of Sérajevo. The Montenegrins and the Servians formed into bands of 50, of 100, and even sometimes of from 300 to 500 men, cross the frontier, the former on the side of Tachlidja, Akod, and Baana (Novi-Bazaar), and the latter on the side of the places lying between Novi-Varech and Vichigrad. Among the aggressors some are beaten and put to flight by the flying columns ; there are some also, who, without fighting, fly before the troops who pursue them, while carrying off the goods and cattle that have fallen into their hands.

For the moment there has been no considerable junction of insurgent forces, nor any serious engagement. The people do not the less continue to complain of the injury which they suffer.

No. 1063.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 27.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 20, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an Imperial Ukase, authorizing the issue of an internal loan for 100,000,000 roubles (nominal) at 5 per cent. ; as also the prospectus of the same.

I likewise annex an official communication of the Minister of Finance, published in the official "Gazette," explaining the motives for this loan, and appealing to public opinion for its support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1063.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of November $\frac{7}{19}$, 1876.

Oukase de Sa Majesté l'Empereur au Ministre des Finances.

POUR couvrir les dépenses extraordinaires imposées au Trésor de l'Etat par suite des événements politiques, nous vous ordonnons, conformément à votre rapport approuvé par le comité spécial, de procéder à une nouvelle émission de billets de banque à 5 pour cent, au moyen d'une souscription publique pour un capital nominal de 100,000,000, sur les bases ci-dessous :—

1. La souscription pour les billets ci-dessus mentionnés sera ouverte à la Banque de l'Etat et dans quelques succursales et comptoirs, à votre choix et sur les bases que vous aurez préalablement approuvées.

2. Ces billets jouiront des droits et priviléges affectés aux billets de banque à 5 pour cent de la première émission, en vertu du règlement, revêtu de la sanction suprême le 1 Septembre, 1859 ; l'amortissement sera opéré dans le courant de trente-sept ans au moyen de tirages annuels pour des sommes déterminées, sans que les propriétaires soient autorisés à demander par des déclarations que leurs billets soient compris dans un tirage plus rapproché ou plus éloigné.

3. Les billets émis seront portés au grand-livre de la dette publique et la commission d'amortissement fera à la Banque de l'Etat des versements annuels de 5 pour cent d'intérêt et d'un pour cent d'amortissement sur le capital nominal jusqu'à remboursement intégral du capital nominal des billets susmentionnés, savoir cent millions de roubles.

(Signé) ALEXANDRE.

(Translation.)

Ukase of His Majesty the Emperor to the Minister of Finance.

TO cover the extraordinary expenses imposed on the State Treasury, in consequence of political events, we order you, in conformity with your Report approved by the Special Committee, to commence a new issue of bank notes at 5 per cent., by means of a public subscription for a nominal capital of 100,000,000 roubles, on the following bases :—

1. The subscription for the above-mentioned notes will be opened at the State Bank and in certain branch establishments and counting-houses, at your choice, and on the bases which you will previously have approved.

2. These notes will confer the same rights and privileges as those attached to the bank notes at 5 per cent. of the first issue, by virtue of the regulation, invested with the supreme sanction, of 1st September, 1859. The redemption will be effected in the course of thirty-seven years, by means of annual drawings for fixed sums, and the possessors will not be authorized to require by declarations that their notes shall be included in a nearer or more distant drawing.

3. The notes issued shall be inscribed in the great book of the Public Debt ; and the Commission of Redemption shall make to the State Bank annual payments of 5 per cent. interest and 1 per cent. Sinking Fund on the nominal capital, until the complete repayment of the nominal capital of the above-mentioned notes, namely 100,000,000 Roubles.

(Signed) ALEXANDER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1063.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of November $\frac{7}{19}$, 1876.

Banque de l'Etat.

Avis.—AUX termes de l'Oukase signé par Sa Majesté l'Empereur le 6 Novembre, 1876, M le Ministre des Finances a chargé la Banque de l'Etat d'ouvrir une souscription publique pour la quatrième émission de billets de Banque 5 pour cent de l'Etat pour une somme nominale de 100,000,000 de roubles, aux conditions qui suivent:

Les dits billets sont émis au porteur et seront de la valeur de 100, 500, 1,000 et 5,000 roubles. L'échange de billets d'une coupure contre les billets d'une autre coupure n'est pas autorisé. Chaque billet sera muni de coupons semestriels destinés à toucher les intérêts semestriels, qui seront de 2½ pour cent par semestre, payables le 10 Mai et le 10 Novembre de chaque année.

Les intérêts des billets commenceront à courir à partir du 10 Novembre, 1876; l'échéance du premier coupon sera le 10 Mai, 1877.

Les billets de cette émission seront amortis au moyen de tirages, conformément aux règlements, dans un délai de 37 ans; les billets sortis au tirage seront remboursés à leur prix nominal. Les tirages auront lieu chaque année au mois d'Août, à partir du mois d'Août, 1877.

Conditions pour la Souscription aux Billets de Banque 5 pour cent de l'Etat, du capital nominal de 100,000,000 *de Roubles, émission de* 1876, *autorisée par l'Oukase signé par Sa Majesté l'Empereur.*

1. La souscription sera ouverte les 9, 10, 11 et 12 Novembre depuis dix heures du matin jusqu'à quatre heures de l'après-midi à la Banque de l'Etat à St. Pétersbourg et aux mêmes dates au comptoir de la Banque de l'Etat à Moscou.

Tous les autres comptoirs, ainsi que les succursales de la Banque, accepteront, pendant la durée d'une semaine, à partir du jour fixé pour l'ouverture de la souscription, les déclarations relatives au désir de faire l'acquisition des billets de Banque de la quatrième émission à leur prix de souscription. La Banque est autorisée à satisfaire à ces déclarations, dans la mesure du possible, en ayant recours aux billets qui seront réservés dans ce but par la Banque, à son compte et qui seront prélevés sur la masse totale des billets offerts à la souscription.

2. Les billets sont émis au prix de 92 roubles pour 100 roubles valeur nominale.

3. Au moment de la souscription, il est versé, en guise de nantissement, 10 pour cent de la somme nominale souscrite, en argent comptant ou en valeurs à intérêts que la Banque de l'Etat et ses comptoirs sont autorisés à accepter comme nantissement d'avances et au taux d'engagement auquel sont délivrés les dites avances.

Des quittances spéciales seront délivrées aux souscripteurs, comme certificat de la réception de ces nantissements.

4. Sept jours après la fin de la souscription, on procédera à la répartition définitive.

5. Dans le courant de huit jours après la publication des résultats de la répartition, les souscripteurs doivent verser, sur 100 roubles nominaux, la somme de 25 roubles, en compte de laquelle seront déduits les 10 pour cent versés comme nantissement lors de la souscription; à cette occasion les valeurs déposées en nantissement doivent être remplacées par de l'argent comptant et les quittances délivrées lors de la souscription doivent être échangées contre des certificats temporaires.

6. Les versements ultérieurs à faire doivent être opérés aux termes suivants:

Le 10 Décembre, 1876	.. ..	15 pour cent	du capital nominal.
10 Janvier, 1877 ..	.. ..	15 „	„
10 Février, 1877 ..	.. ..	15 „	„
10 Mars, 1877 ..	.. ..	15 „	„
11 Avril, 1877 ..	.. .. ..	Les 7 „	restant.

Les versements, dont les termes viennent d'être indiqués, seront reçus avant l'échéance de ces termes, avec escompte de 5 pour cent pour tout le temps depuis le jour où sera effectué le versement avant terme jusqu'au jour où il aurait dû l'être.

7. Les souscripteurs qui n'auront pas versé au terme voulu les paiements indiqués perdront leur droit sur tous les versements précédents et les certificats temporaires qui leur auront été délivrés deviennent nuls.

8. Les certificats temporaires qui auront effectué tous les versements dont les termes sont échus, jouiront de tous les droits reconnus aux billets eux-mêmes.

(Signé) E. LAMANSKY.

(Translation.)

State Bank.

Notice.—UNDER the terms of the Ukase signed by His Majesty the Emperor on November 6, 1876, the Minister of Finance has commissioned the State Bank to open a Public Subscription for the fourth issue by the State of 5 per cent. bank notes, for a nominal sum of 100,000,000 roubles, on the following conditions:—

The said notes are payable to bearer, and will be of the value of 100, 500, 1,000, and 5,000 roubles. The exchange of notes of one issue with notes of another issue is not permitted. Each note will be provided with monthly coupons, destined to receive the half-yearly interest, which will be 2½ per cent. per half-year, payable on the 10th of May and 10th of November in each year.

The interest on the notes will begin to take effect from the 10th of November, 1876; the first coupon will fall due on the 10th of May, 1877.

The notes of this issue will be redeemed by means of drawings, in conformity with the regulations, within a period of thirty-seven years; the notes which are drawn will be repaid at their nominal value. The drawings will take place each year in the month of August, commencing with the month of August, 1877.

Conditions of Subscription to the State 5 per cent Bank Notes, nominal capital 100,000,000 *Roubles, issue of* 1876, *authorized by the Ukase signed by His Majesty the Emperor.*

1. The subscription will be opened on the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th November, from 10 o'clock in the morning till 4 o'clock in the afternoon, at the State Bank of St. Petersburgh, and at the same date at the counting-house of the Bank at Moscow.

All the other counting-houses, as well as the branch establishments of the Bank, will receive during one week, from the day fixed for the opening of the subscription, applications from those desirous of obtaining bank notes of the fourth issue at their price of issue. The Bank is authorized to satisfy these applications as far as possible, having recourse to notes kept in reserve by the Bank for this purpose on its own account, and which will be deducted from the sum total of notes offered for subscription.

2. The notes will be issued at a price of 92 roubles for 100 roubles nominal value.

3. At the time of subscription, 10 per cent. of the nominal subscribed value is deposited as security, in cash or in bills interest-bearing, which the State Bank and its branches are authorized to receive as security in advance, and at the pledged price at which these advances are made.

Special receipts will be given to the subscribers as certificates of the receipt of these securities.

4. Seven days after the subscription has closed, the final distribution will be commenced.

5. Within eight days from the publication of the results of the allotment, the subscribers must deposit, out of every 100 roubles nominal value, the sum of 25 roubles, in reckoning which there will be deducted the 10 per cent. deposited as security at the time of subscription. On this occasion the bills deposited as security must be replaced by cash, and the receipts which were given at the time of subscription must be exchanged for temporary certificates.

6. The further payments to be made must be effectuated at the following dates:—

December 10, 1876	.. ..	15 per cent. on the nominal capital.
January 10, 1877	.. ..	15 „ „ „
February 10, „	.. ..	15 „ „ „
March 10, „	.. ..	15 „ „ „
April 10, „	.. .. ..	the 7 per cent. remaining.

The payments, the dates of which have just been stated, will be receivable before they become due, with a discount of 5 per cent. for the whole time between the day when the payment is made before the close of the term and the day when it ought to have been made.

7. The subscribers who shall not have made the stated payments when due will lose their right over the whole of the preceding deposits, and the temporary certificates which have been delivered to them will become void.

8. The temporary certificates on which all the payments due up to date have been paid, will have a right to all the rights granted to the notes themselves.

(Signed) E. LAMANSKY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1063.

Extract from the from the "Official Gazette" of November $\frac{7}{19}$, 1876.

(Translation.)

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION.—An Imperial Ukase has been published to-day respecting the issue of an internal 5 per cent. loan to the amount of 100 millions.

This loan has been sanctioned by His Imperial Majesty with the object of enabling the Imperial Exchequer to meet the extraordinary expenditure necessitated by present political circumstances.

The peaceful policy of the present reign, though requiring an increase of expenditure, has beneficially affected the economical development of the country during the past years, and enabled the Exchequer to meet all demands without having recourse to credit, and without burthening national resources by an increase of the national debt. The Government now seeks in the country itself the means for meeting the extraordinary expenditure required for the purpose of securing peace in the future, and in submitting this loan it is fully convinced that the object of this financial operation, undertaken by Imperial sanction, will, without doubt, meet with the sympathy of all classes of the Russian people.

The Ministry of Finance hopes that this sympathy will find expression in a general participation in the loan.

No. 1064.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 20, 1876.*

I AM informed on reliable authority that the Russian squadron in the Mediterranean under the command of Admiral Boutakoff has received orders to sail for America.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 1065.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 21, 1876.*

M. DE GIERS, by order of the Chancellor, sent me yesterday a copy of his despatch dated November $\frac{7}{19}$ to Count Schouvaloff, in reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 30th of October, of which I immediately sent to your Lordship a précis by telegraph.

The despatch of Prince Gortchakow,* as also a copy of a private letter addressed by his Highness to Count Schouvaloff, dated Livadia, $\frac{\text{November 3}}{\text{October 22}}$, were published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of to-day, copies of which I have the honour to annex.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 1065.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.

(Particulière.)

M. le Comte, *Livadia, le* $\frac{\text{23 Octobre}}{\text{3 Novembre}}$, 1876.

JE vois avec une profonde surprise dans votre dernière lettre que les idées de nos convoitises sur Constantinople et du testament de Pierre le Grand continuent à hanter quelques esprits en Angleterre. J'avoue que je croyais ces vieilleries hors de crédit et reléguées avec la conquête des Indes par la Russie dans le domaine de la mythologie politique.

Combien de fois les Empereurs de Russie ont-ils répété publiquement qu'aucune

* See No. 1053.

annexion territoriale en Turquie n'entre dans leur politique, qu'ils en seraient fort embarrassés et que le maintien du *status quo* de l'Orient était la meilleure des combinaisons ? Or, vu notre forme de Gouvernement, la parole des Souverains n'est pas une déclaration Parlementaire révocable au gré des majorités. Elle engage leur loyauté personnelle. Combien de fois d'ailleurs les faits n'y ont-ils pas répondu ? Si la Russie avait des convoitises, elle ferait ce que font les Puissances annexantes ; elle se préparerait en silence et agirait à la première occasion favorable. N'en a-t-elle pas eu l'occasion en 1829, en 1848, et en 1870, alors que l'attention et les forces de l'Europe étaient absorbées ailleurs ? Quelles preuves faut-il donc donner aux Ministres Anglais d'un désintéressement fondé, non pas sur la vertu politique, mais sur la raison et le bon sens ? S'ils voulaient oublier un moment qu'ils sont Anglais et se placer au point de vue Russe, nous leur demanderions, la main sur la conscience, s'ils conseilleraient au Gouvernement Impérial de rechercher la possession de Constantinople ? La réponse ne serait pas douteuse. Pourquoi ne pas nous supposer autant de sens pratique qu'ils en ont ?

La seule combinaison rationnelle pour les intérêts Russes, c'était de laisser les clefs de la Mer Noire entre des mains assez faibles pour ne pas fermer à la Russie ce débouché commercial et menacer sa sécurité. La domination Turque répondait à ce programme. Est-ce notre faute si les Turcs en ont abusé en rendant leur domination insupportable à leurs sujets Chrétiens ? La politique Anglaise n'y a-t-elle pas contribué en excitant les défiances de la Porte contre la Russie par sa propre rivalité, et en l'aidant à faire de la force la seule base de son pouvoir ?

Il est réellement pénible de voir deux grands Etats, qui unis pourraient régler les questions Européennes à leur mutuel avantage et à l'avantage de tous, troubler eux-mêmes et le monde par un antagonisme fondé sur des préjugés ou des malentendus.

Les résultats sont palpables. L'opinion publique Anglaise elle-même s'en est émue. A plus forte raison le sentiment national et Chrétien de la Russie, qui est trop voisine de ces contrées et a trop de liens avec elles pour se borner à des sympathies académiques.

Cela impose à l'Empereur des devoirs auxquels Sa Majesté ne saurait se soustraire. Mais ces devoirs sont partagés par toute l'Europe civilisée. Qui empêche l'Angleterre de s'y associer en se joignant à nous pour protéger les Chrétiens, et partager avec nous leur reconnaissance et leur sympathie ? La question d'Orient n'est pas une question seulement Russe, elle intéresse le repos de l'Europe, la paix et la prospérité générale, l'humanité et la civilisation Chrétienne.

N'est-ce pas un terrain assez large pour que l'Angleterre s'y place à côté de la Russie ? Ne l'y avons-nous pas conviée en appelant la présence de ses escadres dans les détroits ? Quel gage de plus faut-il donner que nous n'avons aucune prétention à la possession exclusive de Constantinople ?

L'Empereur vient de s'exprimer dans ce sens vis-à-vis de Lord A. Loftus avec la netteté et la loyauté de sa parole Souveraine. L'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre en rendra certainement compte.

S'il faut réitérer cette assurance, faites-le, mon cher Comte, dans les termes les plus positifs. Vous serez certain d'interpréter fidèlement les intentions de notre auguste Maître.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GORTCHACOW.

(Translation.)

(Private.)

M. le Comte, *Livadia*, $\frac{\text{October } 22}{\text{November } 3}$, 1876.

I SEE with profound surprise by your last letter that ideas of our coveting Constantinople and of the will of Peter the Great continue to haunt the minds of some people in England. I confess I thought these absurdities were out of date, and had been dismissed, together with the conquest of India by Russia, to the domain of political mythology.

How often have not the Russian Emperors publicly asserted that no territorial annexation enters into their policy; that they would be much embarrassed by it, and that the maintenance of the *status quo* of the East was the best combination. In our form of Government the word of the Sovereign is not, like a Parliamentary declaration, revocable at the will of a majority. Their personal loyalty is at stake. How many times, moreover, have not facts confirmed this. If Russia had these desires she would do what annexing Powers do. She would quietly make her preparations, and act on the first favourable occasion. Had she not such an opportunity in 1829, in 1848, and 1870, when the attention and the forces of Europe were engaged elsewhere? What proofs, then, is it necessary to give

English Ministers of a disinterestedness, founded not on political virtue, but on reason and good sense. If they would just forget for one moment that they are English, and place themselves at a Russian point of view, we would ask them whether, conscientiously, they would advise the Imperial Government to seek the possession of Constantinople. There can be no doubt as to the reply. Why deny us the practical good sense they themselves have?

The only rational combination for Russian interests is to leave the keys of the Black Sea in hands feeble enough not to close to Russia that commercial outlet nor to menace her security. The Turkish rule fulfilled this programme. Is it our fault if the Turks have taken advantage of it by rendering their sway intolerable to their Christian subjects? Has not the English policy contributed to the abuse by exciting the suspicions of the Porte against Russia through her own rivalry, and in assisting her to make force the sole basis of her power?

It is really painful to see two great States, which together might regulate European questions for their mutual advantage and the benefit of all, excite themselves and the world by an antagonism founded on prejudices or misunderstanding.

The results are obvious. English public opinion itself has been aroused; and much more so, and more naturally, the national and Christian sentiment of Russia, for we are too near to these countries and have too many relations with them to confine ourselves to merely theoretical sympathies.

This imposes on the Emperor duties from which His Majesty cannot shrink. But these duties are shared by all civilized Europe. What prevents England from fulfilling her part by joining with us for the protection of the Christians and sharing with us their gratitude and sympathy? The Eastern question is not only a Russian question: it involves the repose of Europe, peace and general prosperity, humanity and Christian civilization.

Surely the space is large enough for England to place herself side by side with Russia? Have we not invited her there by inviting in the Straits the presence of her squadrons? What further pledge are we to give of our having no pretension to the exclusive possession of Constantinople?

The Emperor has just expressed himself in this sense to Lord A. Loftus with the precision and loyalty of his Sovereign words. The English Ambassador will most certainly report them.

If this assurance requires to be repeated, do so, my dear Count, in the most emphatic terms. You will be certain to interpret faithfully the intentions of our August Master.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GORTCHAKOW.

No. 1066.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a précis in translation, by Mr. Michell, of an article from the "Golos," containing the substance of a letter from the correspondent of that journal at Belgrade, which serves as a key to the false intelligence propagated for some time by the organs of the Russian press in regard to the military operations in Servia.

It appears that a regular office was organized under the direction of the staff of General Tchernaieff for the invention and transmission of sensational telegrams with the view of exciting and maintaining the popular enthusiasm in Russia in favour of the Slavonic cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 1066.

Précis of Article in the "Golos" of November $\frac{7}{19}$, 1876.

THE "Golos" of the $\frac{7}{19}$th November, 1876, calls the special attention of its readers to the accompanying letter addressed to it from Belgrade. This letter, in its opinion, serves as a key to the false and mendacious intelligence which has for some time been systematically conveyed by General Tchernaieff's staff at Deligrad to several

organs of the Russian press with the object of exciting and maintaining the enthusiasm of the Russian people on behalf of the southern Slavonians, and forcing the Russian Government to declare war against Turkey.

Letter addressed to the "Golos" by its Special Correspondent at Belgrade, and dated November $\frac{9}{21}$, 1876.

. . . . IT is impossible to conceal, it being well known to everyone, that General Tchernaieff, who was well acquainted with the ways and peculiarities of the Russian press, organized a "correspondence office," with the object of not allowing a single line of truth to reach Russia from the scene of military operations in Servia. I have been informed that designedly false telegrams and letters, which found ready admission into certain papers, were systematically prepared and forwarded to St. Petersburgh. I do not blame the editors of the papers who inserted them, as the telegrams especially were sent at the cost of the Servian Government and bore the signatures of persons attached to Tchernaieff's staff, who were necessarily in a position to know the real facts.

All this was done with the best of intentions, partly with the object of glorifying Tchernaieff's capabilities as a military commander, but chiefly with the object of maintaining the enthusiasm of the Russian people, in the hope that this enthusiasm would force the Russian Government to declare war against Turkey.

By the establishment of this correspondence office General Tchernaieff aroused the exasperation of all the Servian Ministers, who regarded his proceedings at Deligrad as those of a distinct Government, distributing its bulletins abroad.

The Ministers were aware that this new Government made loans and invited contributions from abroad in its own name. The unlimited power, likewise, exercised by Tchernaieff in promoting his officers to superior grades weighed heavily on the material resources of Servia.

Tchernaieff spent the money sent from Russia entirely as he pleased, without rendering any accounts. The members of his personal chancery made it known far and wide that Tchernaieff was not only Commander-in-chief of the army, but that he was the incarnation of the idea of Slav emancipation, and that he who gave to Tchernaieff sacrificed at the altar of liberation of the Southern Slavs.

The result of all this was that, while great want and suffering existed at Belgrade, all the members of the "correspondence office" were extremely well paid for their services. The Servian Ministers lacked means for feeding starving children, whereas at Tchernaieff's head-quarters banquets were of daily occurrence and champagne flowed in a continuous stream.

No. 1067.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 27, 1876.

I HAVE to state to you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your conduct while at Cettigné on the special service with which you have been intrusted.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1068.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 27, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction from your report of your interview with Prince Nicholas contained in your despatch of the 4th instant, that His Highness expressed in the strongest manner his regret at the mutilation of Turkish soldiers by Montenegrins, and gave assurances of his determination to put a stop to barbarous acts of this description. It appears, however, from the despatch from Sir Henry Elliot, of which a copy is inclosed, that there were cases of horrible ill-treatment of prisoners after the battle of Medun, which are

thought at Constantinople to be well-authenticated; and I have, consequently, to direct you to recur again to the subject with the Prince, and to state that Her Majesty's Government cannot too forcibly urge the necessity, if hostilities should unfortunately be renewed, of his taking such steps as will ensure that, in spite of the humane feelings by which he, himself, is undoubtedly actuated, the conduct of his subjects shall not be such as to rouse the just indignation of civilized nations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1069.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the official note addressed by your Excellency to Prince Gortchakow, a copy of which is inclosed in your despatch of the 17th instant, embodying the proposals for a Conference contained in my despatch of the 4th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1070.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the Memorandum in which your Excellency communicated to Prince Gortchakow their proposals and basis for a Conference, and of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch of the 5th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1071.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 29, 1876.

HER Majesty's Consul at Salonica, in his despatch of the 5th instant, incloses a statement from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter relating to the number of Circassian settlers in Thessaly; and I have to request your Excellency to report how far that statement tallies with the assurances given by the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1072.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 29, 1876.

YOUR Excellency's despatch of the 8th instant has been received and laid before the Queen; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to Safvet Pasha, in answer to the objections brought forward by that Minister to the meeting of a Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1073.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the language which your Excellency held to the Turkish Minister of War respecting the discredit incurred by the Porte in allowing so much time to pass without investigating the charges against Chefket Pasha, as reported in your despatch of the 16th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1074.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica upon the subject of outrages which it is said have been perpetrated by the Servians in the neighbourhood of Sienitza;* and I have to request that you will furnish me with a report thereon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1075.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 4.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, November* 19, 1876.

SOME evenings before my departure from Cettigné, when all the foreign Agents had been invited to dinner at the Palace, Prince Nicholas took advantage of the opportunity to say to us collectively that he hoped that we would represent to our respective Governments the straits to which Montenegro was being reduced by the presence in the Principality of more than 80,000 Herzegovinian refugees.

His Highness said that his people had hitherto received, sheltered, and shared their means with these unfortunates; but the resources of the country are scanty, and the winter—a terrible season in Montenegro—was almost at hand. He looked forward with the greatest apprehension, therefore, to what would happen.

From Russia he had received supplies of clothing and food, but in very insufficient quantities, and he felt himself forced to make, through us, an appeal to European charity to come to his aid.

Like my colleagues, I listened to the Prince's observations without a word of comment, and without even undertaking to report them.

I took some pains during my stay in Montenegro to ascertain the truth as to the number of the refugees in the Principality, and from impartial and well-informed sources was assured that the Prince's calculation is tolerably correct; indeed, it is declared that registers are available for the verification of this estimate.

If nothing be done in other quarters to succour these miserable exiles the prospect for the winter in Montenegro is indeed terrible.

I understand that one of the principal objects of the projected visit of the Prince to Vienna is to endeavour to make an arrangement upon this urgent point with the Austro-Hungarian Government.

The Prefect of this district told Colonel Lennox and myself yesterday that every week brought an increase in the numbers of the refugees in this part of Dalmatia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

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* No. 1051

No. 1076.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 4.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, November* 25, 1876.

I BELIEVE that by this mail Colonel Lennox will be able to transmit to your Lordship a summary of the proceedings of the "Commission Arbitrale," and a tracing of the line of demarcation decided upon.

That line substantially gives to the Montenegrins, or neutralizes, all that had been claimed by them.

Its general direction was known to Constant Pasha two days ago.

The line will be officially communicated to the Representatives of the belligerents at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 1077.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 4.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, November* 26, 1876.

COLONEL LENNOX, as President of the "Commission Arbitrale," delivered at 4 p.m. yesterday, to the representatives of the Commanders-in-chief of the Turkish and Montenegrin forces, the decisions of the Commission as to the delimitation.

Constant Pasha had previously sent to the Commission a Memorandum combatting the Montenegrin pretensions.

The Austrian and Russian Commissioners started this morning viâ Trebigné for Zaslap and Grahowo. The British, French, and German Commissioners have embarked this afternoon on board the Austrian gun-boat "Möve" for Antivari, on their way to Scutari and Podgoritza.

The Italian Commissioner remains at Ragusa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 1078.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 4.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 18, 1876.

THE inclosed paper contains the provisions which General Ignatiew considers should be demanded for the insurgent provinces.

Although the paper has no official character and appears rather to have been drawn up for the newspapers—to which I see it was immediately communicated—than for serious consideration, it may be well to accompany it with some remarks.

1. The disarming of the Mussulmans is a measure which should be carried out wherever it is practicable, as I believe to be in the case of Bulgaria; but in Bosnia and Herzegovina, among a people from time immemorial accustomed to carry arms, and to put their chief pride in them, could not be attempted.

The Austrian Bocchese and Dalmatians carry arms, as do also the Christian Turkish subjects in Albania; but if the practice cannot be put an end to in Bosnia, the privilege should be allowed to all classes so that the Christians might not be placed in an invidious situation, which lays them at the mercy of their Turkish fellow-subjects.

2. The exclusion of all but natives from public functions, and their nomination upon the principle of election is the last thing that should be proposed.

It is precisely the native functionaries, who, having friends to serve, or enemies to spite, become the worst of petty tyrants of their districts. This has been amply proved in Crete, where certain influential Christians who were placed in a position of authority have been the bane of the Island.

3. With regard to the formation of a local militia and police, with the equal participation of Christians, I have frequently stated that I consider the employment of Christians in the police is absolutely indispensable.

4. There cannot be two opinions as to the evils and abuses resulting from the employment of irregulars, but a proposal for the expulsion of the Circassians from the lands allotted to them twenty years ago, when they were obliged to leave Russia, will hardly be seriously brought forward.

5. The confinement of the Turkish troops to the fortresses is also a suggestion which it cannot be necessary even to discuss, if the authority of the Porte is to be maintained.

6. The abolition of the tithes, and the readjustment of the taxes by the populations, are neither of them suggestions likely to find favour.

A more equitable mode of collecting the tithes is loudly called for, but, considering the proportion which they bear to the already insufficient revenues of the Empire, their substitution by other taxation would be found a matter of extreme difficulty.

The adjustment of the taxation by the inhabitants, even if it did not interfere with the first duties of the Central Government, would not be likely to prove advantageous to the poorer classes, who would certainly be ground down by the more influential classes with whom the decision would rest.

7. The employment of the local language is a reform that should be adopted, and has already been announced as to be introduced in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

8. The nomination of Christian Governors-General for the Provinces would be of very doubtful benefit in some of them, where they would find it difficult to maintain their authority over the large Mussulman populations, and their positions would not be improved if they were to be named subject to the approval of the foreign Powers; but the nomination of the Governors for a fixed period would undoubtedly be advantageous.

9. Messrs. Baring, Schuyler, and Tzeretelew, whom it is proposed to consult as to the details of the local administration in Bulgaria, have been in ravaged districts inquiring into the acts perpetrated there, but have none of them the special knowledge which is required in framing a scheme of administration.

The Bulgarian notables, on the contrary, should be able to speak with authority, and knowledge, of the grievances to be redressed.

10. A direct Consular control over the measures is likely entirely to undermine the authority of the Government, and to increase the difficulties of the administration.

11. Before anything is asked respecting the inquiry into the persons guilty of the massacres, it will be necessary to see how the Commission now sitting performs its duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 1078.

General Ignatieff's Eleven Proposals.

1. DESARMEMENT des Musulmans en Bosnie, en Herzégovine et en Bulgarie.

2. Exclusion des fonctionnaires non-indigènes et introduction du principe électif sur une base large.

3. Formation d'une milice locale et de la police avec la participation des Chrétiens proportionnée au nombre et à la race de ces derniers.

4. Interdiction de l'emploi des irréguliers et renvoi des Circassiens dans les Provinces Musulmanes de l'Empire.

5. Concentration des troupes Turques dans les forteresses.

6. Répartition des impôts par les indigènes eux-mêmes et abolition de la dîme.

7. Emploi de la langue locale dans les Tribunaux et l'Administration.

8. Gouverneurs Chrétiens comme au Liban nommés par la Porte pour cinq ans avec l'assentiment des Puissances Garantes.

9. Les détails de l'organisation des autonomies locales pour les trois provinces, et particulièrement pour la Bulgarie, seront déterminés après qu'on aura entendu les suggestions et les avis des experts, c'est-à-dire, des personnes qui ont séjourné longtemps ou rempli des missions dans le pays. Ainsi pour la Bulgarie on pourrait consulter MM. Schuyler, Baring, le Prince Zérétchew, M. Adelbourg, Vice-Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie, M. Matalas, Consul de Grèce à Philippopoli, et quelques autres, ainsi que les notables qui seraient appelés par ces messieurs.

10. Contrôle direct de l'Europe pour l'exécution des mesures décrétées dans les trois Provinces (Commissions Consulaires Locales).

11. Enquête sevère avec participation des Consuls sur les méfaits et les massacres accomplis par les Musulmans, châtiment exemplaire des vrais coupables, et indemnités à allouer aux familles des victimes aux dépens de la population Musulmane qui a participé aux désordres.

(Translation.)

1. DISARMAMENT of the Mussulmans in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria.

2. Exclusion of non-native officials, and introduction of the elective principle on a wide basis.

3. Formation of a local militia and of a police, with the participation of the Christians in proportion to the number and race of the latter.

4. Prohibition of the employment of irregulars and the return of the Circassians to the Mussulman Provinces of the Empire.

5. Concentration of the Turkish troops in the fortresses.

6. Re-distribution of the taxes by the natives themselves and abolition of the tithe.

7. Employment of the local language in the Law Courts and Administration.

8. Christian Governors, as in the Lebanon, nominated by the Porte for five years, with the assent of the Guaranteeing Powers.

9. The details of the organization of the local autonomies for the three Provinces, and particularly for Bulgaria, shall be settled after hearing the suggestions and opinions of experts, that is to say, of those persons who have long lived in the country, or occupied official posts there. Thus, for Bulgaria, one might consult Messrs. Schuyler, Baring, Prince Zérétchew, M. Adelbourg, Vice-Consul for Austria-Hungary, M. Matalas, Consul for Greece at Philippopoli, and some others, as well as the natives of mark who might be summoned by these gentlemen.

10. Direct control of Europe over the execution of the measures decreed in the three Provinces (Local Consular Commissions).

11. Severe inquiry, with participation of the Consuls, into the misdeeds and massacres perpetrated by the Mussulmans, exemplary punishment of the real culprits, and indemnities to be allotted to the families of the victims at the expense of the Mussulman population who took part in the disorders.

No. 1079.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 4.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 18, 1876.

MR. KIRBY GREEN has informed your Lordship, by his despatches of the 23rd and 28th ultimo, of the boundary which he considers should be fixed for Montenegro on its southern frontier.

His proposal is for the cession by Turkey of a considerably greater amount of territory than that which is considered necessary by General Ignatiew, who always says that Podgoritza with its Mussulman population must be left to the Turks, and that the proper boundary would be the River Moratcha up to a point from which it should be drawn, so as to include the part of the Kutchi district at present belonging to Turkey, of which the principal part is already in Montenegro.

As far as I am acquainted with the circumstances, this would appear to be a proper arrangement, which would not injuriously affect any real Turkish interest.

To the north of the Principality, on the other hand, General Ignatiew considers that the whole of the districts of Zgubsi, Banjani, and Nichsich should be joined to Montenegro with a boundary so extended that the Principality would receive an accession of territory nearly equal to the half of what it now possesses.

It is certainly desirable that these districts, which are now a source of expense and weakness to Turkey rather than of benefit, should be joined to Montenegro, but if it is proposed to extend its frontier too much, the Porte will be entitled to represent that the engagement of the Powers was that peace should be concluded on the basis, in general terms, of existing territorial possessions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 1080.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 4.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 19, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a note, which I have received from the Porte, requesting me to call the attention of Sir Arnold Kemball to alleged violations of the armistice by the Servians, which had been reported by the officers commanding at Mitrovitza and Novi Bazar, with a view to the prevention of collisions, and to the maintenance of the respective positions as they were at the commencement of the armistice.

I have telegraphed the substance of the Porte's note to Sir Arnold Kemball, instructing him to concert with his colleagues upon the measures to be taken, and suggesting that, if he thinks it advisable, he can direct Major Gonne to proceed to the places mentioned in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 1080.

Note-Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 18 *Novembre,* 1876.

LES dernières informations télégraphiques des commandants des divisions militaires de Mitrovitza et de Novi Bazar présentent la situation comme étant de nature à causer des inquiétudes.

Indépendamment des forces considérables qu'ils ont assemblées sur divers points, les Serbes ont violé l'armistice en envahissant Bukovick, Sostanitza, Ragosna et diverses autres localités. Ils ne cessent de commettre des actes de violence sur la personne de ceux qui tombent entre leurs mains et d'employer des moyens d'intimidation à l'égard de ceux qui échappent à leur poursuite.

En faisant part de ces graves infractions à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères est convaincu qu'elle voudra bien y attirer l'attention de son délégué militaire afin que la situation respective soit établie telle qu'elle existait au moment de l'armistice. Il y aurait grand intérêt à faire parvenir sur ce point des instructions au Délégué Britannique le plus tôt possible, car les Serbes continuant d'avancer et d'empiéter sur les positions occupées par les troupes Impériales un conflit serait bien à craindre.

(Translation.)

Sublime Porte, November 18, 1876.

THE latest telegraphic information from the Commandants of the Military Divisions of Mitrovitza and of Novi-Bazar represent the situation as being such as to cause anxiety.

Independently of the considerable forces which they have assembled at various points, the Servians have violated the armistice by invading Bukowick, Sostanitza, Ragosna, and several other places. They no not cease to commit acts of violence on the persons of those who fall into their hands, and to employ means of intimidation in respect to those who escape their pursuit.

In communicating these serious infractions to Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy, the Minister for Foreign Affairs is convinced that you will draw the attention of your Military Delegate to them, in order that the respective positions may be re-established on the same footing as they were at the time of the conclusion of the armistice. It will be of the greatest importance to instruct the Britannic Delegate on this point as soon as possible, for as the Servians continue to advance and to encroach on the positions occupied by the Imperial troops, a conflict is much to be feared.

No. 1081.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 4.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 23, 1876.

ON the 3rd of April last I instructed Mr. Sandison, in communicating to Raschid Pasha a translation of Mr. Freeman's despatch to your Lordship of the 17th of March, to assure his Excellency "of the regret with which I communicated to him the contents of this despatch.

"When authentic accounts of such abominations were received in Europe they must excite the indignation of the whole civilized world, and no surprise need be felt if public sympathy were on the side of those who struggled to free themselves from a Government under which they were exposed to treatment such as described.

"The massacre at Popopovitza, which, although denied, was an undoubted fact, remained unpunished, and now these fresh horrors were committed, which would go far to estrange from Turkey the good-will of her last friends."

I have now received from the Porte a note, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, giving an unqualified denial to Mr. Freeman's statements.

I shall forward this note to Mr. Freeman for his observations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 1081.

Safvet Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

Sublime Porte, le 16 *Novembre,* 1876.

LA Sublime Porte vient de recevoir des renseignements positifs sur les faits relatés dans le Rapport de Mr. Freeman à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique en date du 17 Mars dernier. Les informations authentiques recueillies sur les lieux démentent de la manière la plus formelle, soit les nouvelles que cet Agent déclare avoir reçues de Novi et de Kostanitza, soit les actes de violence et de cruauté qui auraient été commis journellement sur la frontière nord-ouest de Bosnie. Voici, d'ailleurs, quelle est en substance la réponse des autorités Impériales aux allégations contenues dans le susdit rapport.

Il n'éxiste dans l'arrondissement de Behke aucun village répondant au nom de "Galina," et depuis le commencement de l'insurrection il ne s'est passé dans toute l'étendue de cette arrondissement aucun fait approchant de l'histoire des deux jeunes demoiselles Strojanovich.

Grâce aux mœurs et au caractère du peuple Bosniaque, tant Musulman que Chrétien, ce genre de crimes y est presque inconnu.

Les mêmes considérations peuvent être opposées au cas de la femme enceinte qui, emportée à un "Koulé," sis près de Novi, aurait succombé à des outrages répétés; crime dont, du reste, on n'a pu trouver aucune trace, faute d'indications précises.

Vient ensuite le supplice de Rado Benjich, qui aurait été empalé le 10 Mars, et exposé près de quatre jours près de Novi. Mais cette histoire n'est pas nouvelle: les journaux de Vienne en ont parlé dès le mois de Février. Quoique Novi n'ait jamais eu à assister à un pareil acte de barbarie, le bruit qui s'est fait autour de cette affaire à cette époque a obligé les autorités Impériales d'aller aux informations. Or l'enquête ouverte sur les lieux a eu pour résultat de constater que Rado Bayovich n'était autre qu'un de ces insurgés qui étaient tombé dans une rencontre au Balkan de Jorim.

Telle est la réalité des choses en ce qui concerne cet individu.

Quant à l'affaire des qautre paysans elle n'a même pas l'avantage d'être connue dans le pays.

Celle du maître d'école Orthodoxe de Priédor n'est pas plus sérieuse. Cet homme vit si bien que sa signature figure entre autres au bas de la déclaration par laquelle les habitants notables de cette ville viennent d'opposer un démenti si formel à la nouvelle de l'assassinat qui y aurait été commis.

Dans un autre passage du rapport susmentionné, il est question de certains faits qui se seraient passés à Ruitcha. Or, il n'existe aucun village de ce nom; il n'y a eu ni grain emporté ni maison ou église brûlée.

Il en est de même de la ville de Krupa, qui heureusement n'a eu à subir aucun

incendié, et où il ne se trouve aucun fonctionnaire ni particulier répondant au nom de Fahim Effendi.

Les habitants Musulmans de Priédor n'ont rien fait pour causer la panique en cette ville. Au contraire ce sont les Chrétiens qui ont pris les armes contre leur Gouvernement et attaqué leurs compatriotes Musulmans, avec lesquelles ils n'avaient jamais cessé cependant d'entretenir des rapports de liberté et de confiance mutuelle. Serait-il juste de rendre ces derniers responsables de la conduite de ceux qui ont abandonné leurs foyers pour se réfugier en Autriche sous prétexte d'insécurité ?

La véritable cause de cette émigration réside ailleurs que dans l'attitude des populations Musulmanes ; la masse du peuple, qui est ignorante et facile à tromper, cédant soit aux instigations des gens malintentionnés venus de l'étranger, soit aux lettres ménaçantes reçues du territoire voisin, soit enfin aux violences des insurgés, a pris le parti de se transporter en Autriche.

Peine inutile, car ceux qui sont restés dans leur pays continuent à jouir de la plus grande sécurité, sous les auspices des autorités Impériales, malgré les publications contraires qui se produisent périodiquement, et dont une déclaration signée par les notables des populations Chrétiennes vient de faire justice.

Pour ce qui est des six commerçants qui ont été arrêtés à Priédor, ils ne sont pas aussi innocents qu'on a l'air de le croire ; leur complicité résultant clairement d'un papier trouvé sur un individu portant le costume Serb et qui avait perdu la vie à Grahova, dans un engagement entre les troupes Impériales et une bande d'insurgés. Comme signataires de ce document les six commerçants en question ont été mis en état d'arrestation et conduits à Behké, où ils ont subi un interrogatoire. Leurs déclarations jointes à l'étendard révolutionnaire, qui a été retiré de l'Eglise de Priédor, établissaient suffisamment leur degré de culpabilité.

Malgré cela, ils n'ont été en butte à aucun mauvais traitement, encore moins les autorités ont-elles pu leur demander de l'argent ou employer des moyens d'intimidation à leur égard. Excepté le nommé Paro Vokich, qui a été tué par suite d'une résistance armée à la force publique, et non pour le motif allégué par l'auteur du rapport, tous les autres prisonniers ont été amnistiés et renvoyés à Priédor, après une certaine détention.

Voila, dans toute leur simplicité, les faits constatés sur les lieux et corroborés par la déclaration unanime des membres Musulmans et Chrétiens du Conseil Administratif de Behké.

Après une démonstration si complète et si positive il ne reste qu'à faire à chacun sa part de responsabilité. Certes, il serait à désirer que l'œuvre de la pacification avançat plus rapidement ; mais si cela n'a pas eu lieu il serait peu juste de l'attribuer à l'attitude des autorités ou des populations Musulmanes plutôt qu'aux instigations passionnées qui ont pour effet d'égarer l'opinion publique.

(Translation.)

Sublime Porte, November 16, 1876.

THE Sublime Porte has just received positive information as to the facts related in the report of Mr. Freeman to the Embassy of Her Britannic Majesty, dated the 17th March. Authentic information collected on the spot contradicts, in the most formal manner, both the intelligence which this agent says he received from Novi and Kostanitza, and the acts of violence and cruelty which it was supposed had been of daily occurrence on the north-west frontier of Bosnia. The following is the substance of the reply of the Imperial authorities to the accusations contained in the above report.

In the district of Behke there is no village answering to the name of "Galina," and since the beginning of the insurrection nothing has taken place in the whole extent of this district like the story about the two young ladies Strojanovich.

Thanks to the morals and character of the Bosnian people, Mussulman and Christian, this class of crime is nearly unknown there.

The same considerations may be offered in the case of the pregnant woman, who, carried off to a "Koulé" near Novi, is said to have sunk under repeated outrages, of which crime, however, in the absence of precise information, no trace has been found.

Then there is the torture of Rado Benjich, said to have been impaled on the 10th March, and to have been exposed for nearly four days near Novi. But this story is not new. The Vienna papers spoke of it in February. Although such an act of barbarity never really took place at Novi, the excitement which this affair caused at the time forced the Imperial authorities to inquire into it. Now the inquiry opened on the spot resulted in proving that Rado Bayovich was one of the insurgents who had fallen in an encounter in the Balkan of Jorim.

Such is the true state of things as regards this individual.

As to the affair of the four peasants, it is not even known in the country.

That of the Orthodox schoolmaster of Triedor is equally unfounded. This man is so much alive that his signature figures amongst others beneath the declaration in which the prominent inhabitants of this very town have just formally contradicted the intelligence of the assassination said to have been committed there.

In another passage of the above-mentioned report mention is made of certain deeds that were committed at Ruitcha. Now, there is no village of this name; there was no grain carried off there, nor any house or village burnt.

The same holds good about the town of Krupa, which, happily, suffered from no fire, and where there is no functionary or private individual answering to the name of Fahim Effendi.

The Mussulman inhabitants of Triédor did nothing to cause the panic in this town. On the contrary, it was the Christians who took up arms against their Government, and attacked their Mussulman compatriots, with whom, however, they had never ceased to entertain relations of mutual freedom and confidence. Would it be just to make these latter responsible for the conduct of those who have quitted their homes to seek shelter in Austria under pretext of insecurity?

The real cause of this emigration is to be found elsewhere than in the attitude of the Mussulman populations. The mass of the people, ignorant and easily deceived, yielding either to the instigations of evilly-disposed persons come from abroad, or to threatening letters received from the adjacent territory, or to the violence of the insurgents, has taken the course of emigrating to Austria.

A useless precaution, for those who remained in their native country continue to enjoy the greatest security under the auspices of the Imperial authorities, in spite of assertions to the contrary, which make their appearance periodically, and which a declaration signed by the men of note among the Christian populations has just exposed in their true light.

As regards the six merchants who were arrested at Triédor, they are not so innocent as is believed; since their complicity is clearly shown by a paper found on an individual wearing the Servian costume, who was killed at Grahovo, in an engagement between the Imperial troops and a band of insurgents. The six merchants in question were arrested and taken to Behké, where they underwent an examination as subscribers of this document. Their declarations, together with the revolutionary flag taken from the Church at Triédor, established sufficiently their degree of guilt.

Notwithstanding this, they were exposed to no ill-treatment, still less did the authorities demand money from them, or employ means of intimidation towards them. With the exception of one Paro Vokich, who was slain while offering armed resistance to the public authorities, and not for the motive alleged by the author of the report, all the other prisoners were amnestied and sent back to Triédor after some detention.

These are the simple facts as ascertained on the spot, and confirmed by the unanimous declaration of the Mussulman and Christian members of the Administrative Council of Behké.

After such a complete and positive demonstration it only remains to allot to each his share of the responsibility. Certainly, it would be desirable that the work of pacification should advance more rapidly; but if this rapid advance has not been effected, it would not be just to attribute it so much to the attitude of the authorities or the Mussulman populations as to the desperate intrigues which mislead public opinion.

No. 1082.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 4.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 23, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of various documents relating to the state of affairs in Bulgaria, viz., a letter from Saadoulah Bey to the Grand Vizier: an extract of a letter from Mr. Stoney, distributing agent of the Central Relief Committee, to Mr. Wrench; a note from the Porte, and my reply thereto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1082.

Saadoulah Bey to the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.) 21 *Ramazan.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir le télégramme chiffré que votre Altesse a bien voulu m'adresser le 23 Septembre relativement aux instructions données à Mr. Sandison, à la suite du rapport adressé de Bazardjik par Mr. Baring, et pour me demander mes propres renseignements à ce sujet.

Il est dit dans les instructions précitées que l'on n'a pris encore ici aucune mesure pour assurer l'ordre et la tranquillité, que les Pomaks continuant à être armés, attaquent sans cesse les populations et commettent sur elles toutes sortes de cruautés, que les habitants Chrétiens n'osent point pénétrer dans les forêts pour y couper le bois nécessaire à la réconstruction de leurs maisons, qu'il se commet journellement des actes d'assassinat et de vol, que la haine des Musulmans pour les Bulgares est très violente et qu'elle ménace de prendre des proportions plus considérables si l'on ne met pas à la disposition des autorités locales une force armée de 3,000 hommes, et enfin que les individus impliqués dans les derniers événements et que l'on avait arrêtés ont été relâchés.

Il est évident que la tranquillité n'est pas encore complètement rétablie et la confiance rentrée dans les esprits sur les points qui ont tout récemment été agités par les troubles: les vols y sont, il est vrai, plus fréquents que dans les temps ordinaires; mais il est tout à fait inexact que des assassinats se commettent journellement; depuis que notre Commission se trouve dans ces parages, deux seuls cas d'assassinat ont eu lieu dans le district de Philippopoli. J'ai l'honneur de transmettre ci-jointe à votre Altesse, pour son information, le procès-verbal du Medjlissi Temijiz, contenant les détails de ces crimes, et les noms des meurtriers comme ceux de leurs victimes.

D'après ce que nous avons pu constater nous-mêmes à Batak, à Derbend, et à Peroustitza, villages situés sur les deux rives de la Maritza, ainsi que dans les autres villages que nous avons visités, une certaine inimitié existe en effet entre les Bulgares, qui ont assassiné des Musulmans, et les parents de ceux-ci, mais nous n'avons rien vu encore qui pût prouver la haine violente dont parle Mr. Baring.

Quant aux habitants Musulmans des autres villages, ils disent qu'ils ont toujours vécu en frères avec les Chrétiens, que l'insurrection a été provoquée sur des instigations étrangères, et ne parlent qu'avec regret des événements qui se sont accomplis. Ils savent que leurs intérêts étant liés avec ceux des Chrétiens, ils ne peuvent que souffrir des malheurs arrivés à ceux-ci, et viennent par conséquent à leur aide en leur fournissant, avec le plus grand empressement, du bois pour la réconstruction de leurs maisons. En somme, pendant que les Musulmans assistent ainsi leurs compatriotes Bulgares, les habitants des villages Chrétiens avoisinant un bourg complètement détruit et qui a un besoin pressant de secours comme Batak, loin de le sécourir, refusent de travailler, même moyennant salaire, à la réconstruction de ses maisons.

Une lettre du Caïmacam de Bazardjik constatant ce fait se trouve pour être examinée entre les mains de la Commission. Si donc les Bulgares craignent encore d'aller couper du bois dans les forêts, on ne saurait attribuer cette crainte rien qu'au manque de confiance.

Pour ce qui est des troupes se trouvant ici, j'ai déjà eu l'honneur d'informer votre Altesse par ma lettre du 11 Juillet, 1292, que ce pays ayant été le théâtre de grands événements, et étant devenu le passage d'un grand nombre de soldats se rendant en Serbie, il était nécessaire, afin de prévenir toute éventualité de troubles, d'y entretenir des troupes en nombre suffisant. A la suite de l'autorisation de votre Excellence un bataillon est arrivé dernièrement ici de Sophia et 150 cavaliers sont déjà en route venant d'Andrinople. Un renfort de 300 à 400 zaptiehs a été demandé des districts environnants. En dehors de ces forces un bataillon des Redifs du troisième bans se trouve dans le district de Philippopoli, trois pélotons de ce bataillon sont dans la ville même, quatre à Bazardjik et à Kalofer; il y a en outre à Bazardjik un escadron de cavalerie. Ainsi que votre Altesse le verra par la lecture de la liste ci-jointe, le nombre des Zaptiehs se trouvant ici, d'après la nouvelle organisation, ne s'élève pas, officiers compris, à moins de 1,243 hommes. L'enrôlement de nouveaux Zaptiehs à Philippopoli n'ayant pu s'effectuer, on a demandé des Zaptiehs aux districts environnants, mais dans la prévision qu'ils n'arrivent pas dans un court espace de temps, je prie votre Altesse de faire expédier un ou deux escadrons de cavalerie. D'après les indications qui précèdent, les autorités locales peuvent disposer d'un nombre de soldats égal à celui que Mr. Baring croit nécessaire pour maintenir l'ordre. Les cavaliers qui doivent arriver seront divisés en colonnes et placés en garde aux envi-

rons de la ville. De cette manière il sera mis un terme aux actes dont on se plaint, et qui peuvent, d'ailleurs, être commis même dans les temps calmes. Les Bulgares, protégés aujourd'hui par l'Europe, tâchent d'obtenir la réalisation de leurs desseins en excitant l'intérêt et la sympathie des Puissances à leur égard; par une grande exagération des faits que sont passés, ils veulent faire croire à tout le monde que leur situation présente et leur avenir se trouvent en danger.

Cette circonstance mérite l'attention de votre Altesse.

Quant à la mise en liberté de ceux qui avaient été impliqués dans les derniers événements, il résulte des renseignements que nous avons recueillis à ce sujet que le nommé Alisch Pehlivan, impliqué dans les troubles de Batak, avait été arrêté par les soins des autorités locales de Bazardjik sur la demande de Blaque Bey et de Yovantcho Effendi, lors de leur mission en Bulgarie, mais qu'à leur retour à Philippopoli ces deux Commissaires ayant déclaré que, n'étant pas chargés du jugement de ceux qui avaient joué un rôle dans les derniers événements, il était convenable de relâcher, sous caution, le susnommé Alisch Pehlivan, en attendant le commencement de son interrogatoire, un télégramme du Mutessarif enjoignit aux autorités de Bazardjik de mettre en liberté, sous caution, l'individu dont il s'agit. Toutefois Alisch Pehlivan se trouve actuellement avec tous les autres prévenus entre les mains des autorités, et une fois leur jugement terminé, j'aurai l'honneur de faire connaître à votre Altesse les décisions qui auront été prises à leur égard.

(Translation.)

21 *Ramazan.*

I HAD the honour to receive the telegram in cypher which your Highness was kind enough to send me on September 23 regarding instructions given to Mr. Sandison in consequence of Mr. Baring's report, dated from Bazardjik, and to ask me for information on the subject.

In the statements quoted above it is asserted that no measures have as yet been taken here to secure order and tranquillity; that the Pomaks still carry arms and constantly attack the inhabitants of the country, perpetrating every kind of cruelty on them; that the Christians do not dare to go into the forests to cut the timber necessary for the re-building of their houses; that assassination and theft are daily committed; that the hatred felt by the Mussulmans for the Bulgarians is very violent, and that it threatens to assume still more considerable proportions if an armed force of 3,000 men be not immediately placed at the disposal of the local authorities; and lastly, that the persons implicated in the recent events who had been arrested have been set at liberty.

It is clear that tranquillity is not yet entirely re-established, nor public confidence restored in those districts which have lately been the scene of disturbances. It is true that acts of theft are more common than usual, but it is altogether incorrect that assassinations take place every day; in fact there have been only two cases of assassination in the district of Philippopoli since our Commission has been in this neighbourhood. I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Highness' information, the report of the Medjlissi Temijiz, containing the details of these crimes, the names of the murderers and of their victims.

From the information which we ourselves have been able to collect at Batak, Derbend, and Peroustitza, villages situated on both banks of the Maritza, and also in the rest of the villages visited by us, there is some feeling of hostility between the Bulgarians who have assassinated Moslems and the latter's relations; but as yet we have seen nothing that could afford proof of the violent hatred spoken of by Mr. Baring.

As for the Moslem inhabitants of the remaining villages, they state that they have always lived on terms of brotherly love with the Christians. They assert that the insurrection was stirred up by foreign instigation, and never speak without regret of what has taken place. They know that as their interests are bound up with those of the Christians, if any disaster befall the latter, the former cannot fail to suffer; hence they help them by showing the greatest zeal in supplying them with timber for the reconstruction of their houses. In fine, while the Mussulmans are thus helping their Christian fellow-countrymen, the inhabitants of a Christian village situated close to a village that has been destroyed and in pressing need of help, like Batak, far from giving any help, refuse to work, even on condition of receiving salary, at the rebuilding of their houses.

A letter from the Kaïmakam of Bazardjik which proves this fact is now under examination before the Commission. If, therefore, the Bulgarians are still afraid of going to cut wood in the forests, this alarm can only be attributed to want of confidence.

As for the troops here, I have already had the honour of informing your Highness, in my letter of July 11, 1292, that as important events had taken place in this district, and as large number of soldiers had passed through *en route* to Servia, it had become necessary to retain a sufficient number of troops to prevent any possibility of disturbances. In obedience to your Excellency's commands, a battalion has recently arrived here from Sophia, and a body of 150 cavalry are already *en route* hither from Adrianople. The surrounding districts have been asked to furnish a reinforcement of 300 or 400 zaptiehs. Beside these forces, there is a battalion of the third levy of Redifs in the Philippopoli district; three platoons of this battalion are in the town itself, four at Bazardjik and Kalofer; there is, in addition, a squadron of cavalry at Bazardjik.

As your Highness will gather from a perusal of the accompanying list, the number of zaptiehs here, according to the new organization, does not exceed 1,243 men. It has been found impossible to enroll fresh zaptiehs at Philippopoli; the surrounding districts have been asked to furnish zaptiehs, but, foreseeing that they may not arrive immediately, I beg your Excelleney to cause one or two squadrons of cavalry to be dispatched.

It follows from the above statements that the local authorities can dispose of a body of soldiers equal in numbers to what Mr. Baring thinks necessary for the preservation of order. The cavalry on their arrival will be divided into columns and picketted, around the town. The acts complained of will thus be put a stop to; they might, however, be committed even in peaceful times.

The Bulgarians, now under the protection of Europe, are endeavouring to realize their plans by exciting the interest and sympathy of the Powers in their favour; by grossly exaggerating what has occurred, they wish to make everyone believe that their present situation and their future are full of peril.

This circumstance calls for your Highness' attention.

As to the liberation of those implicated in recent events, from information collected by us on this subject, we learn that one Alisch Pehlivan, implicated in the Batak disturbances, had been arrested by the local authorities at Bazardjik, on the requisition of Blaque Bey and Govantcho Effendi, while on their mission to Bulgaria, but that as these two Commissioners on their return to Philippopoli declared that it was not part of their duty to try those who had played a part in recent events, and that it would be advisable to liberate the aforesaid Alisch Pehlivan on bail, a telegram from the Mutessarif ordered the authorities at Bazardjik to liberate the person in question on bail. Alisch Pehlivan is, however, with the rest of the accused in the hands of the authorities, and as soon as ever their trial is concluded, I shall have the honour of informing your Highness of the sentences pronounced in their cases.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1082.

Mr. Stoney to Consul Wrench.

(Extract.) *Hissar, November* 13, 1876.

JUST returned from Hairanlu, a Turkish village between Sindjerli and Novo Zelo, or Yenikeui, which suffered considerably at the hands of those two villages in the very beginning of the insurrection. Twelve men were caught returning from the market at Karlova, and chopped to pieces in the streets of Sindjerli. Same day six others were massacred at a mill near Yenikeui, and six, taken prisoners, were carried to the church of Yenikeui, and there shot through the windows. At the same time, ten Tchingaris, of Hairanlu, were killed. I have taken down the names of the men killed, and have seen their widows and children, who are living in a large farm-house, supported by the other villagers. They number thirty-five widows and fifty-six children, and are but badly off. The whole village contains but 100 houses. I promised 50*l.* for food for the women and children, and hope to give more later on. I consider them as well deserving of charity as their neighbours who attacked them, and to whom we gave relief. I have got the names of other Turkish villages which suffered in those first days, and will visit as many as I can of them. When the Turks had their innings they completely destroyed Sindjerli and Yenikeui, though they spared Kessalar and Dudjia, which had not risen against them.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1082.

Memorandum.

LE Ministère Impérial a reçu les informations les plus satisfaisantes sur la marche de l'enquête ouverte en Bulgarie.

La Commission Extraordinaire, dont la composition offre toutes les garanties d'indépendance et d'impartialité voulues, répond parfaitement au but qui avait présidé à son institution. Les cas qui lui sont soumis sont examinés avec un soin minutieux soit en séance plenière, soit en présence de deux membres, dont l'un Musulman et l'autre Chrétien.

Cette Commission s'est transportée dernièrement à Batak, et ne l'a quitté qu'après avoir pris les informations nécessaires sur les hommes et les choses de cette localité. De retour à Pechtra et plus tard à Philippopoli, elle a fait venir et entendu en leurs dires et explications un certain nombre d'habitants de Batak et des villages circonvoisins.

L'enquête continue ; prisonniers et autres, tous sont interrogés et examinés contradictoirement. En un mot, la Commission s'acquitte de son mandat dans des conditions de célérité qui ne laisse rien à désirer.

Pour ce qui est de l'assertion comme quoi il y aurait en prison bon nombre de Bulgares innocents, elle n'est rien moins qu'exacte. Sur une centaine de détenus on ne pourrait indiquer un seul homme qui ne fût impliqué dans le mouvement révolutionnaire ; les uns étaient accusés de meurtre, les autres du crime d'incendie. Ils allaient être condamnés lorsque l'amnistie générale est venue les restituer au droit commun ; le Tribunal de Temyiz, saisi de leurs affaires, a déjà mis en liberté ceux qui étaient en état de profiter de cet acte de grâce souverain ; il ne reste plus en prison que cinquante-neuf individus, dont quarante-huit prévenus d'assassinat, et le reste du crime d'incendie. Si parmi ces gens il y en a encore qui puissent être pardonnés, ils seront relâchés après examen. Un Tribunal provisoire a été, d'ailleurs, adjoint au Temyiz pour assurer l'achèvement de cette tâche aussi promptement que possible.

La marche des affaires n'est pas moins régulière dans d'autres localités. A Sofia, il n'y a eu en tout que vingt-deux arrestations déterminées par les mêmes motifs et qui, justifiées déjà par des jugements de première instance, n'attendent pour application de la loi que le prononcé de la sentence du Temyiz. A ce nombre sont venus s'ajouter plus tard neuf individus qui, échappés un moment aux poursuites de la justice, ont fini par tomber entre les mains des autorités. Une enquête spéciale a été ouverte à ce sujet, et l'instruction se poursuit activement.

On peut en dire autant d'Andrinople. Sur les trente-deux individus déférés au Tribunal de Temyiz, dix-neuf ont été amnistiés et mis en liberté sous caution, neuf sont poursuivis comme assassins par les héritiers des victimes, deux ont subi déjà leur condamnation, et deux autres, reconnus comme instigateurs et chefs d'insurgés, ont été conduits à Philippopoli et à Selimno pour l'examen des faits qui leur sont imputés.

A Bazardjik le nombre des détenus ne s'élève guère à plus de sept ; ils sont tous accusés de meurtre.

Voilà quel est le chiffre exact de ceux qui sont poursuivis d'après la loi. En dehors de ces gens il n'existe, qu'on sache, aucun prisonnier, surtout de prisonnier innocent.

Sublime Porte, le 22 Novembre, 1876.

(Translation.)

THE Ministers of the Sublime Porte have received most satisfactory information as to the progress of the inquiry recently opened in Bulgaria.

The selection of members for the Extraordinary Commission offers every guarantee that could be desired for the independence and impartiality of its proceedings, and the Commission entirely fulfils its mission. The cases brought before it are examined with the greatest possible care, either in full sitting or in the presence of two members, one a Moslem and the other a Christian.

This Commission went recently to Batak, and only quitted that place after having collected all necessary information as to the state of affairs in that district. On their return to Pechtra, and afterwards at Philippopoli, the Commission summoned a certain number of the inhabitants of Batak and the neighbouring villages, examined them, and listened to what they had to say.

The inquiry is still proceeding; all prisoners and others are questioned and cross-questioned. In a word, the Commission is doing its work so speedily that nothing further can be desired.

As to the assertion that a large number of innocent Bulgarians are in prison it is entirely contrary to truth. Out of a hundred persons in prison it would be impossible to point out a single individual not implicated in the insurrection; some were accused of murder, others of arson. They were on the point of being sentenced, when, by the general amnesty, they were again allowed a trial at common law. The Court of Temyiz took up their case, and has already set at liberty those who could profit by this act of sovereign grace. There are only fifty-nine persons left in prison now; forty-eight of whom are accused of murder, the remainder of arson. If there are any of these persons whom it may be possible to pardon, they will be released after trial. A Provisional Court has been added to the Temyiz to secure the completion of this work as promptly as possible.

Matters have progressed with equal rapidity in other districts. At Sophia there were only twenty-two arrests in all, and these were determined by the same reasons, and have been justified by the sentences pronounced by the Courts of First Instance. These sentences only now await the pronouncing of sentence by the Temyiz in order to be carried out. Later on nine persons were added to this number: they had at first escaped capture, but later on they fell into the hands of the authorities. A special inquiry has been commenced in this case, and the investigation is being rapidly proceeded with.

The same may be said of the cases at Adrianople, of the thirty-two individuals brought before the Court of Temyiz, nineteen have been amnestied and set at liberty on bail; nine are now being prosecuted on the charge of murder by the heirs of their victims, two have already paid the penalty of their crimes, and two others who have been recognized as abettors of the revolt and leaders of the insurgents have been taken to Philippopoli and Selimno, in order that the matters of which they are accused may be inquired into.

At Bazardjik the number of prisoners amounts only to seven; they are all accused of murder.

The above is the exact number of those now being prosecuted according to law. Besides these, there is not, to our knowledge, a single other prisoner, most certainly no innocent one.

Sublime Porte, November 22, 1876.

Inclosure 4 in No. 1082.

Note-Verbale.

Constantinople, November 22, 1876.

HER Majesty's Embassy has read the notice of the Sublime Porte on the subject of the Bulgarians still kept in prison.

It is asserted in this notice that not one of those now confined is innocent, but Her Majesty's Embassy must take leave to point out that this is a question which can only be decided by their being brought to a fair trial.

A simple denunciation or accusation is not a proof of guilt, and the fact of many of the accused having been already acquitted upon trial, shows that, as must always occur, there were many innocent persons among the arrested.

It cannot be doubted that the same will be found with respect to some of those still in prison, although the Sublime Porte, without waiting for their trial, has felt warranted in declaring them all guilty.

Her Majesty's Embassy must, therefore, again express the hope that these prisoners may, with the least possible delay, be brought to trial in order that their guilt or innocence may be established.

Although the reports received from Philippopolis of the proceedings of the Commission are very far from satisfactory, Her Majesty's Embassy hopes that the result may justify the more favourable accounts given by the Sublime Porte.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 1083.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 4.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 23, 1876.

THE first question likely to arise upon the arrival of the Marquis of Salisbury will relate to the character to be given to the preliminary meetings of the foreign Representatives.

I have informed your Lordship by telegraph of the fear entertained by Safvet Pasha that resolutions might be adopted at those meetings to be merely submitted afterwards to the Conference for its ratification.

This is, unquestionably, the aim of the Russian Ambassador, who would thus practically attain the original wish of his Government for a Conference of the Christian Powers, to decide upon arrangements to be imposed upon the Porte.

General Ignatiew, at a meeting of his colleagues this afternoon, spoke of the necessity of making an arrangement for recording formally what passed at those preliminary meetings, with a view to the avoidance of future misunderstandings.

I said that, till the arrival of the instructions which Lord Salisbury would bring, I should have no information enabling me to judge whether Her Majesty's Government intended the meetings in question to be of the formal nature he seemed to anticipate.

The anxiety of the Russian Government to make it appear that whatever is done for the Christians is done by the Powers, and not by the Porte, is as marked as ever. The object is to weaken the authority of the Sultan, and to teach the populations that they have only the foreign Governments to look to for protection, which cannot be the wish of the Governments which sincerely desire the maintenance of this Empire at the same time as the removal of the grievances which lead to discontent and insurrection.

The one broad principle upon which we can all agree is the equality of all the Sultan's subjects of whatever race or religion.

This exists in theory, but in theory alone, already, and our object must be to remove the disqualifications under which the Christians still labour.

The acceptance of Christian evidence in all causes in which Christians are interested; the participation of Christian Judges in mixed cases; the immediate admission of Christians into the police force, and their gradual incorporation into the army; and the employment of a fair proportion of Christians in all offices of the central, and still more of the provincial Administration; are principal measures required.

The Porte should make known to the Powers the manner in which it proposes to carry these measures out, and it will be for the Conference to examine how far the proposals seem calculated to attain the object.

The grievances to be removed exist in all parts of European Turkey, and the remedies must be applied to all alike, unless the seeds of future insurrections are to be sown in other provinces, which are entitled to equal consideration, but which, not being Slav, are regarded with indifference by Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 1084.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 4.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 23, 1876.*

A TURKISH General and Ismail Bey, one of the Members of the Philippopolis Commission, have been ordered to proceed to Boyadjikeui to inquire into the conduct of Chefket Pasha at that village.

I intimated to Safvet Pasha that Her Majesty's Government would not be satisfied with an inquiry in which no Christian took part, especially as Ismail Bey had already shown little evidence of impartiality in the inquiries in which he had taken part.

In consequence of my representations a Christian member will be placed upon this Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 1085.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 4.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, November* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report that the acts of licentiousness attributed to the Russian soldiers serving as volunteers in the Servian army are believed by many natives, but it is quite impossible to authenticate any particular instances, nor will it be possible to do so as long as political interests attach this country so strongly to Russia, and until the public men here find it convenient to speak more freely on this subject.

For my part, I believe there is much exaggeration in these reports, and the only case which appears to me authenticated is the pillaging of the house of an Austrian subject at Yagodina, which was mentioned to me by his Consul-General, Prince Wrede.

No doubt Russians are, in that class of life frequently addicted to drunkenness, a vice extremely rare in Servia, and it is not at all impossible that when in that condition, they may have committed a few gross outrages at a distance from Belgrade.

In this city they are accused of being extremely violent when in a state of insobriety in the cafés, and also at night in the streets, and they are far from being popular amongst the lower classes here, who, having no regular army of their own, are not accustomed to the arrogance and to the liberties taken by soldiers in military despotic States.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 1086.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 4.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, November* 25, 1876.

IN continuation of the subject of my previous despatch, I have the honour to state as follows:—

1. The Russian soldiers serving here consisted either of men on long furlough or of such who had served their time some years back, almost all were such as had served in the Caucasus or were Cossacks, a few had the Crimean medal, and there is no evidence that any privates had been allowed to leave their regiments for this purpose, though there is no doubt that many officers were allowed to do this, ostensibly resigning their actual commission in the Imperial army, the same must have been the case with the non-commissioned officers, as both these have been recalled back to their regiments within the last few days in considerable numbers since the mobilization commenced.

2. The Societies which have been sending money for the purpose of keeping up the war in Servia are bodies enjoying a *quasi* recognition on the part of the Imperial family, something like our Royal Societies at home, and as far as I am cognizant of Russian legislation it depends very much on an expression of the will of the reigning Sovereign, the present Emperor having in a recent speech at Moscow spoken favourably of the Russian volunteers serving in Servia. His Majesty has thus given a legislative approbation of their having been sent to fight here—a precedent which Russia may have occasion to regret some day, if officers belonging to a neutral nation should ever lead hostile soldiers against a Russian army.

From an international point of view two points may be noticed in the action of the Sclavonic Committees in Russia as highly objectionable, viz., the enlistment which has been openly carried on by them in Russia for the Servian army, though it is pretended that as no Foreign Enlistment Act exists in Russia no municipal law is thereby violated.

The second reprehensible practice has consisted in an abuse of the Convention of Geneva by conveying to Servia under the symbols of the Red Cross warlike apparel, and probably small arms and other portable material from Russia, whilst officers in uniform travelled thence through Hungary and Roumania to the seat of war under the protection of the Russian Red Cross Societies and with certificates delivered by them.

The funds sent here by these and by Sclavonic Committees have been exclusively

managed and distributed here either by General Tchernaieff or by agents sent for the purpose from Moscow to St. Petersburgh. These funds were available for the pay and expenses of the Russian volunteers; but I presume the Russian authorities do not consider any of these acts as breaches of neutrality, or else I cannot account for the fact that official encouragement was given in all parts of the Empire to patronize and assist the collection of funds which have been thus used or abused quite openly.

As regards the third question, I do not believe that any cannon or rifles came here from Russia during this war, as far as I can learn those in use by this army and militia have been here before the war commenced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 1087.

Colonel Lennox to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 4.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, November 25, 1876.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 2nd instant, appointing me to act as Military Delegate on the part of Great Britain, for arranging the armistice between the armies of Turkey and Montenegro, and desiring me to proceed without loss of time to Vienna, and to await further instructions there, I have the honour to inform you that I left London the next morning, and reached Vienna on the morning of the 5th instant. I was unable to obtain any information with regard to the negotiations for the armistice at Vienna, but I ascertained that the Delegates were to assemble at Ragusa.

I reached Ragusa on the 10th, and found that none of the Delegates were there except the Italian Delegate, M. Durando, who resides at Ragusa.

I did not find any orders awaiting me at Ragusa, and I did not receive the identic instructions for the Delegates which were transmitted with Sir H. Elliot's letter of 6th, till the 17th, and the identic variations, transmitted with Sir H. Elliot's letter of the 10th, till the 21st.

Happily my French colleague received the identic instructions, in a letter dated 3rd November from his Embassy at Constantinople, on the 14th instant, and by telegram of the 10th, the identic variations of that day. We were, therefore, enabled to take some preliminary measures before the arrival, on the 18th, of the last Delegate.

The Commission opened under my presidency the following day (Sunday, 19th), and held two sittings on the 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, and one sitting yesterday.

The decisions of the Commission will be communicated to the Commanders-in-chief of the armies in Herzegovina and Albania and to the Prince of Montenegro, through the officers delegated by them, at a sitting to be held this afternoon. The Commission will, therefore, have practically concluded its duty in eleven sittings, held in seven days.

Speaking in a general way, the territory claimed by the Montenegrins has been either left in their line of demarcation or formed into neutral ground.

In the name of the Commission I shall telegraph the leading facts to Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, for communication to the chiefs of Mission at 4 P.M. this day, when the written decisions will have been handed to the Delegates of the Commanders-in-chief.

The accompanying tracing shows the several lines. It is from the Austrian staff map of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Servia, and Montenegro of 1876, scale $\frac{1}{300,000}$. It has been very hurriedly made, and very probably some of the names are not spelt properly; but it will be sufficiently clear if placed over the Austrian staff map.

The Commission leave to-morrow (if transport be procurable), in two parties, to mark out the ground, the lines of demarcation and neutral zone, at the two places where the greatest forces are in presence. I proceed with the German and French members to Sputz and Podgoritza; and Colonel Bogoluboff proceeds with the Austrian member to Zaslap. M. Durando will remain at Ragusa, so as to be able to communicate by telegraph with the Commission in the event of necessity.

The Commission will return here as soon as possible, and then complete the record of its proceedings, which will be forwarded to Constantinople.

When I have completed my duties as Commissioner here I will proceed to

Constantinople, as directed in your letter of 24th October last, and take up the appointment of Military Attaché there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.*,
British Commissioner.

Inclosure in No. 1087.

Rough Sketch showing Line of Demarcation between the Turkish Troops and the Montenegrins.

No. 1088.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 4.)

My Lord, *Vienna, November* 29, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1088.

Major Gonne to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Extract.) *Deligrad, November* 23, 1876.

I HAVE the satisfaction of reporting that the Commission were able, without difficulty, to establish a neutral zone between the Ottoman and Servian forces on the River Timok. The dislocations were of slight importance and both sides seemed content.

The trace which I have the honour to inclose, applied to the Austrian staff map, will show the neutral zone within the pencil marks. The red line represents the Servian outposts, the blue the Turkish.

The Commission ruled that the Turks were entitled to a complete line of defence round the town Zaitschar, but the outworks or positions thrown forward fall in neutral ground. On these there are earthworks which can be reoccupied when the armistice ends, viz., the night of the 28th December. The Servians were thrown back from Slivar.

As regards the political boundary of the River Timok, the only two posts held, viz., Cokonjar by the Servians and Bregovo by the Turks have been evacuated, the troops falling back 4 kilometres. The instructions given to the Commission are to maintain neutrality over 8 kilometres: this is obviously impossible in a mountain district; fortunately an exception is allowed, and it will be found that latitude must be taken everywhere.

Since the ground was marked, a complaint has been made against the Turks for looting the remnant of the village Grljan. A second complaint is made that the Turks have threatened to force the road between Nichsich and Widdin, at a place near Mirelova, south of Knjazevac. The Servians are here on Turkish territory, and will be left there when the line is marked. On the other hand, the Servians are accused of cutting communication on an important road from Bosnia towards Turkey, between Novi Bazaar and Mitrovitza.*

The journey to Deligrad was safely accomplished after some hardship as regards weather, and the Commission, presided over by Sir A. Kemball, will now settle the boundaries in the Morava Valley. It was ruled this day that my functions end when the General's begin, though I may resume my duty when the General thinks fit to replace me on the Commission.

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* Where the railway ends.

ROUGH SKETCH

SHEWING LINE OF DEMARCATION BETWEEN THE

TURKISH TROOPS AND THE MONTENEGRINS

FROM THE

AUSTRIAN STAFF PLAN.

Scale 1/300,000.

Crhoica
Metokia
Texero
Ravno
Goransko
Zlostup
Smederovo Kla
Hoždren
Poginapolje
Prešieka
Lipovo
Kolasin
Bilek
Pilatovee
Nikšick
Zaberdji
Trebinje
Zaslap
MONTENEGRO
Grab
Shuz
ALBANIA
DALMATIA
Sutorina
Podgoritza
Dinosi
Seliste
Cattaro
Cettinje
Zabliak
Sistan
Murcó

Line of demarcation
Neutral ground
Zone
Frontier lines

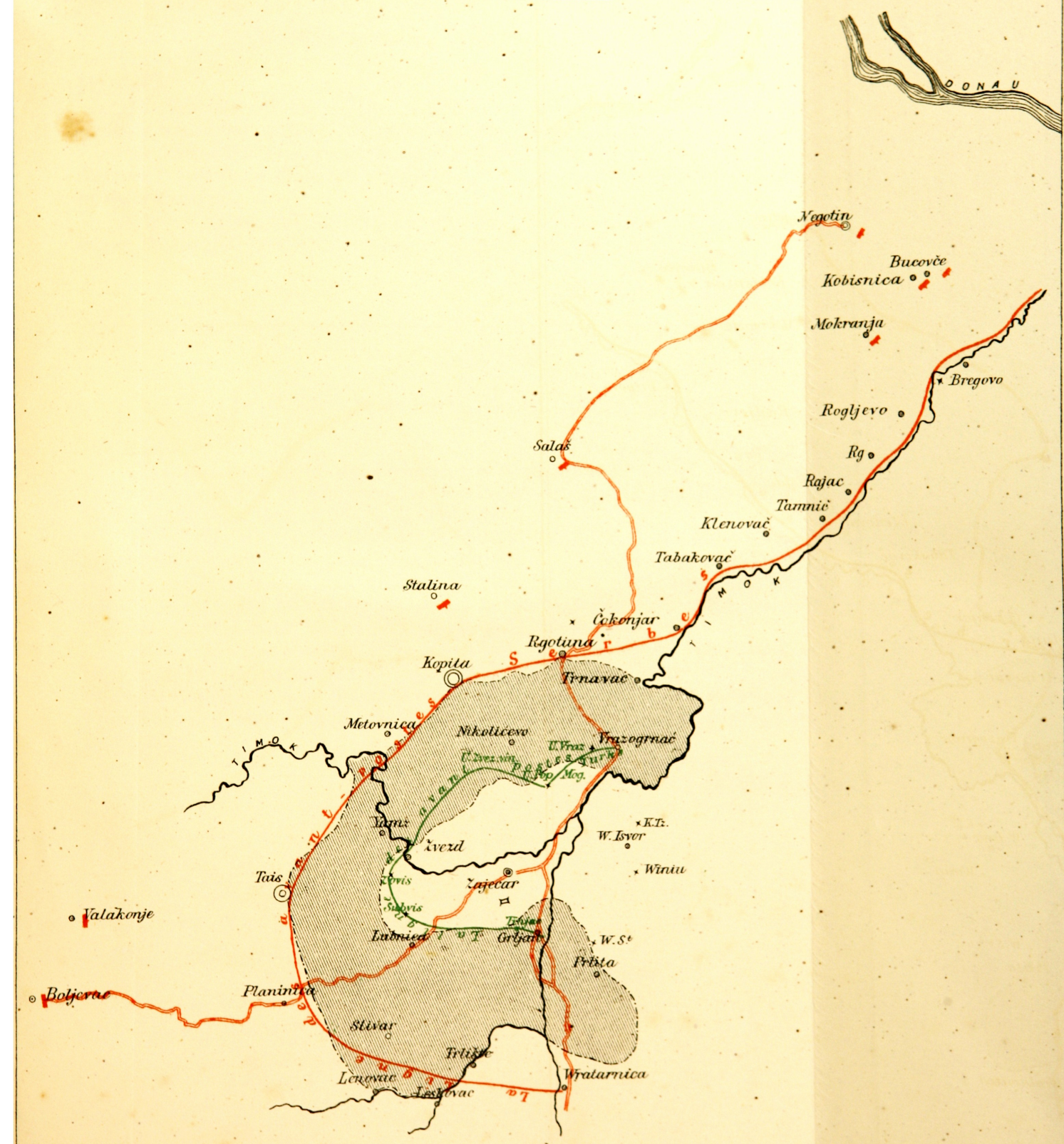
Copied from a tracing of another tracing from the Austrian Staff Map of "Bosnien, der Herzegovina, von Serbien und Montenegro" of 1876.

Harrison & Sons, Lith. St. Martins Lane, W.C.

(1900. 1/11. 1130)[F.O. 167]

MAP

Shewing the Neutral Zone between the Turkish & Servian Forces,
on the
RIVER TIMOK.



Inclosure 2 in No. 1088.

Tracing showing the Neutral Zone between the Turkish and Servian Forces on the River Timok.

No. 1089.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 9.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 25, 1876.*

BY direction of the Sultan a Commission has been formed for the relief of the families who have suffered in Bosnia and the Herzegovina during the insurrection.

No distinction is to be made with regard to the race or creed of the recipients of the relief, and the authorities are directed to prepare carefully a return of the sufferers in their districts.

Midhat Pasha will be President of the Commission, and the Grand Logothete and Savas Pasha will be able and efficient Christian members of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 1090.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 9.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 25, 1876.*

THE constitution of the Bosnian and Herzegovinan Relief Commission, reported in another despatch of this date, has exhibited the disposition of the Sultan in a more liberal light than that of his Grand Vizier.

When His Majesty ordered its formation he directed the Grand Vizier to submit to him the names of the members to compose it. He was displeased upon receiving a list of none but Mussulman names, and sent it back with an intimation that as the relief was intended for all classes of his subjects, and as the principal sufferers were Christians, there must be two Christians upon the Commission.

Upon this the Grand Vizier submitted to the Sultan the names of a Greek banker and of an Armenian, but His Majesty, not considering them possessed of the requisite character and independence, replaced them by the names of the Grand Logothete and Savas Pasha, the latter being a man of known courage in supporting his opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.